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NOTICE

On 1 June 1987 FBIS will begin publication of reorganized and renamed DAILY REPORTS. The following list details the changes being made in the eight volumes.

I.	CHINA DAILY REPORT	Contents unchanged
II.	EASTERN EUROPE DAILY REPORT	Contents unchanged
III.	SOVIET UNION DAILY REPORT	Contents unchanged
IV.	EAST ASIA DAILY REPORT	Renamed; formerly ASIA & PACIFIC DAILY REPORT; contents unchanged
V.	NEAR EAST & SOUTH ASIA DAILY REPORT	Renamed; formerly MIDDLE EAST & AFRICA DAILY REPORT; contents include: Middle East & South Asia Review Inter-Arab Affairs Islamic Affairs Palestinian Affairs OPEC Affairs South Asian Regional Affairs Arab Africa Algeria Chad Egypt Libya Mauritania Morocco Sudan Tunisia Western Sahara Arabian Peninsula Bahrain Kuwait Oman PDRY Qatar Saudi Arabia United Arab Emirates Yemen Arab Republic Iraq Israel Jordan Lebanon Syria South Asia Afghanistan Bangladesh India Iran Maldives Nepal & Bhutan Pakistan Sri Lanka
VI.	LATIN AMERICA DAILY REPORT	Contents unchanged

(continued on back of report)

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PRAVDA REVIEW ON EUROMISSILES, THATCHER VISIT

PM051943 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 5 Apr 87 First Edition p 4

["International Review" Column by Nikolay Bragin]

[Text] Dynamism, Principledness [subhead]

It is customary in the international affairs of our times that not one significant step, not one specific proposal on the most important foreign policy problems emanating from the Soviet Union and its friends and allies, the fraternal socialist states, leaves any politician and public figure on any continent with feeling of indifference.

This week has seen the debate over the Soviet proposal on the elimination of medium-range missiles in Europe continue unabated. This is both natural and understandable inasmuch as -- as E. Honecker, general secretary of the SED Central Committee and chairman of the GDR State Council, stated in a speech 30 March --"It is clear to everyone that such a step would be decisive contribution to ridding the European continent of the threat of nuclear nightmare and to relaxing the international political climate."

It is worthy to note that not even the most shameless adherents of the nuclear missile arms race in the Pentagon and NATO headquarters are in a position to come up with persuasive arguments to counter a Soviet proposal which gives full consideration to the position of the West, long an advocate of the "zero option" for the medium-range missile problem.

It goes without saying that our new initiative is encountering an interested response not only from the majority of political and public figures but also from the broadest mass of the people both within Europe and beyond it. Because, L'HUMANITE writes, it "answers people's innermost thoughts about making a start to mankind's transition to a nuclear-free world."

And just look at the propaganda maneuvers and the ideological diversions, planned by the West's special services that the foes of international detente are resorting to at this time in order to undermine trust in the sincerity of Soviet intentions to do everything possible for nuclear disarmament. It is becoming increasingly difficult to deceive people; they are judging the policy of any particular state or government not by wordy statements but on the basis of their practical deeds.

The deeds of the Soviet Union and the other fraternal countries of the socialist community speak for themselves. They consistently and purposefully aim for a situation wherein the world witnesses new approaches to the solution of the most urgent, vital problems -- and above all the problem of arms limitation and disarmament. This is demonstrated by the results of the Moscow session of the Warsaw Pact States' Foreign Ministers Committee. On 2 April the CPSU Central Committee Politburo discussed these results. It endorsed the collectively outlined steps aimed at eliminating the nuclear threat, banning chemical weapons, advancing the Budapest initiative on reducing armed forces and conventional armaments in Europe, developing the all-European process, and improving the allied states' foreign policy collaboration.

The dynamism of the peace offensive -- as the West frequently calls the foreign policy initiatives of the socialist community countries -- accords fully with the demand for new political thinking in the nuclear age. This dynamism is also dictated by the vital needs of socialist society, by the process of restructuring in all spheres of its life.

In order to resolve successfully the very complex problems of restructuring in the economy and in the social and cultural spheres, the Soviet Union is vitally interested in a lasting, reliable peace and in the cessation of the arms race. Our entire community is interested in this.

Life itself confirms that the community countries' unity of action and close political, economic, and military cooperation is a reliable guarantee of our successfully overcoming the difficulties and impediments arising both in the path of internal development and in foreign policy activity. To strengthen this cooperation, to deepen the integration processes within the community framework -- all the fraternal countries are interested in this. This is indicated by the preparations now under way in Czechoslovakia for the official visit to the CSSR by CPSU Central Committee General Secretary M.S. Gorbachev. "The visit by the important Soviet guest," RUDE PRAVO writes, "will be an event of exceptional significance in relations between the two fraternal countries, a substantial contribution to the development of reciprocal cooperation, to the process of socialist building, and to the further broadening and deepening of traditional Czechoslovak-Soviet friendship."

Historic Chance for Europe [subhead]

A major international event this week was the talks in Moscow between M.S. Gorbachev, general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, and M. Thatcher, prime minister of Great Britain. The head of the British Government paid a 5-day official visit to our country which saw an exchange of opinions on a broad range of international problems and on issues connected with bilateral relations. A number of agreements aimed at developing these relations in specific areas was signed.

The Soviet-British talks drew the fixed attention of the press and state and public figures in Europe, America, and on other continents inasmuch as they concerned the most acute problems of our times, primarily the prospects for disarmament and the practical solution of the problem of eliminating medium-range missiles in Europe. "M. Thatcher," LE MONDE remarks, "is the first West European leader to visit the Soviet Union since the unveiling of the Soviet proposal on eliminating medium-range missiles."

The leading press sources in Britain note that the head of their country's government had the opportunity not only "confidentially" but also publicly to set forth her point of view on all the issues of interest to her, and to obtain the most exhaustive reply to them from the Soviet side. Newspapers of the most diverse political tendencies point to the "frank nature of the summit-level Soviet-British dialogue," noting that it allowed the sides to gain a better understanding of each other's positions and to emphasize the pressing need to resolve a number of problems linked with improving the situation on the European continent and throughout the world. The presence of diametrically opposed viewpoints on certain cardinal questions of world development is also noted.

The UK press is now commenting extensively on M. Thatcher's statement made following her departure from the USSR in which she expresses profound satisfaction with the hospitality accorded her in the Soviet Union and with the spirit of frankness as well as the USSR's readiness for the further development of Soviet-British relations.

The Moscow talks represent a continuation of our country's dialogue with a major Western power which is a permanent member of the UN Security Council. They took place in the new conditions which have emerged in Europe and the world and, naturally, their results could not fail to affect the course of the current all-European process and the prospects for ridding the continent of nuclear weapons.

After hearing at its meeting on Thursday the report by M.S. Gorbachev, N.I. Ryzhkov, and E.A. Shevardnadze on the results of their talks with M. Thatcher, the CPSU Central Committee Politburo noted their great significance for bilateral and international relations. The talks made possible a frank exposition of views on the relations between states with differing social systems, on regional conflicts, and on other important problems, particularly the prospects for disarmament. There was an in-depth comparison of positions and a clarification of each other's intentions on this topic.

Just what did the talks show? First, the fact that both sides recognize the importance of solving the problem of medium-range missiles, although Great Britain continues to surround its approach to an agreement with reservations. The readiness was expressed to eliminate chemical weapons, move toward the lowering of military confrontation in Europe -- from the Atlantic to the Urals, to enrich the Helsinki process, and to promote the settlement of regional conflicts by political means.

Second -- and all commentators draw attention to this -- fundamental differences remain on cardinal issues of world development. M. Thatcher, still a captive of the antiquated positions of NATO's "nuclear deterrence" strategy, advocates the retention of nuclear weapons as some sort of panacea in averting a new world war. But the reality of the nuclear age speaks differently: There is nothing more dangerous for the fate of mankind than the retention and, even more so, the buildup of this weapon of mass destruction.

During the talks the Soviet side confirmed the Soviet leadership's resolute disagreement with the position that the conduct of international affairs and international security must rely on nuclear weapons, even though this encourages their proliferation and threatens a general catastrophe.

The times imperatively dictate the need for practical actions to halt the nuclear missile arms race. The Soviet proposals on medium-range missiles offer a unique chance for Europe to set an example in this. Reaching an agreement on this issue as speedily as possible would initiate a process which is awaited with such hope by the peoples of the entire world -- the transition to the stage-by-stage reduction and, subsequently, the complete elimination of nuclear weapons. The chance to embark on the 21st century without nuclear weapons must not be missed!

The Soviet Union is prepared to do everything possible in behalf of this great and noble goal. Our country is convinced of the need to continue and deepen the political dialogue with the states of the West in the spirit of the new thinking, with a view to surmounting the existing distrust and improving the international situation as a whole.

Why They Are Against [subhead]

So, just what is it that upsets those people who are opposed to an agreement and advance fabricated pretexts to block the process of transition toward practical steps along the path of nuclear arms limitation? They make no great secret of it, essentially putting forward the same arguments as heard before: Nuclear weapons, they say, "deter" the outbreak of a new war.

Judging by everything, the gamble on continuing the nuclear arms race -- and taking it out into space, moreover -- remains pivotal to the policy of the current U.S. Administration and the military-industrial complex standing behind it. The transatlantic arms manufacturers are obtaining billion-dollar profits from fulfilling orders for the SDI and other military programs. Even more pleasing prospects loom before them. It has been officially announced in Washington that the forthcoming 1988-1989 military budget will cross the $300-billion mark, while for the 3 years 1986-1988 total military expenditure will amount to $930 billion. This indeed is the distant prospect. Military orders worth hundreds of millions or billions of dollars pour into their pockets daily as though from a cornucopia. This week the United States embarked on the construction of two new aircraft carriers costing about $7 billion. Multibillion-dollar contracts are being drawn up for the manufacture of the latest missile-carrying bombers. Here, surely, is where to find the answer to the question: Why is the military-industrial complex opposed to a reduction in any types of nuclear arms and their carrier vehicles, "Euromissiles" included. Of course, in the uppper echelon of power in the United States people realize that it is difficult in the prevailing conditions to shirk with impunity the solution of the question of medium [-range] missiles in Europe. But they are also afraid of provoking the anger of the missile manufacturers, especially with the presidential election coming up next year. So they are deciding how to compensate for a possible loss in one thing by a sharp upsurge in the production of something else, in particular nuclear-tipped missiles with a shorter range [u kotorykh menshaya dalnost poleta] than the "Euromissiles." They apply the following figures here: The United States and NATO, they say, currently have nine times fewer missiles with a lesser radius of action [s menshim radiusom deystviya] than the Warsaw Pact countries. Therefore, they say in Washington -- and they are echoed in London, Paris, and Bonn -- the Russians must agree to allow the other side "to catch up to them in terms of the number of such missiles." Observe: They are pushing to the fore not the idea of reducing operational and tactical missiles but they demand "to sanction" a nuclear missile arms race. In the name of the U.S. President the White House has just published a statement which reiterates the demand for recognition of U.S. freedom of action in building up missiles with a lesser range than the medium-range missiles. All this gives rise to completely justified doubts: Do people over there want the elimination of any types of missiles at all in Europe?

Today it is patently inadequate to declare verbally all nuclear armaments "amoral and barbarous," as President Reagan said in conversation with the leader of Britain's Labor Party, N. Kinnock, who was recently in the United States. What is essential are practical moves toward their limitation and subsequent complete elimination. This was agreed in Reykjavik.

The West, however, continues to pile up obstacles on this path. It seems to me that it is absolutely appropriate to recall here the just concluded visit to the United States by J. Chirac.

The French prime minister had meetings and talks with President R. Reagan, Secretary of State G. Shultz, and Secretary of Defense C. Weinberger which centered on the issue of the attitude to be adopted toward the Soviet proposal on the elimination of medium-range missiles in Europe. So what happened? Maybe the sides mutually pledged themselves to promote the speediest realization of this proposal? Absolutely not! On the contrary, judging by commentaries in the U.S. press, the interlocutors played that same dubious game: How to justify delaying the solution of this problem. Chirac was distressed lest the security interests of the United States' European NATO partners might suffer with the elimination of the medium-range missiles while his transatlantic interlocutors assured him that they will act "with consideration for the concerns of their partners" and exert pressure on the Russians.

The Soviet leadership has repeatedly and quite categorically let Washington and its allies know that our country does not seek military superiority for itself, but that it will not allow the violation of the existing parity in the correlation of forces in the international arena. We will not waive our security in any circumstances. And the sooner people across the ocean realize this, the more easily the process of consolidating international security will move forward.

U.S., NATO INF STANCE HINDERS ACCORD PROSPECTS

PM030941 Moscow SOVETSKAYA ROSSIYA in Russian 1 Apr 87 First Edition p 5

[Article by Yu. Gavrilov: "'Atlanticists' Resort to Tricks to Hamper Talks"]

[Text] Talks began in Washington yesterday between French Prime Minister J. Chirac and U.S. President R. Reagan. The main item on the agenda is the Soviet proposals on eliminating medium-range missiles in Europe.

It is just over a month since the Soviet Union put forward a major new initiative on singling out the question of Soviet and U.S. medium-range missiles in Europe from the package of problems and concluding a separate agreement. This step made a big impact worldwide and caused a flurry of diplomatic activity on both sides of the Atlantic. On the eve of British Prime Minister M. Thatcher's visit to the USSR there was an intensive exchange of views involving London, Paris, and Bonn. Paramount attention has also been paid to problems of curbing the nuclear arms race at the British prime minister's meetings in Moscow.

In analyzing the course of the debates and discussions, observers highlight several significant points. First, there are growing demands by broad European public circles for the NATO countries' governments to give a positive response to Moscow's proposals and not to miss a unique chance to strengthen security in Europe. Second, practically all the West European leaders advocated reaching a Soviet-American agreement on medium-range missiles. These are all positive factors. But there are also clearly discernible negative phenomena. Certain circles, primarily in the United States, want to place barriers in the way of the speediest achievement of accords, are expressing various reservations, and are urging action from a "position of strength."

On the one hand talks are in progress while, on the other, the Pentagon is testing Pershing-2 missiles and continuing to station U.S. medium-range missiles in Europe.

At the same time, appeals are being made in the Pentagon not to eliminate U.S. medium-range missiles in Europe but, in the event of an agreement with the USSR, to turn them into short-range missiles (we are talking about first-strike Pershing-2 missiles). And to reequip the cruise missiles for stationing on submarines and surface ships. Anyway, every effort is being made to push the idea of keeping a certain number of medium-range missiles in Europe despite the USSR's clear proposal on their total elimination on the continent, as discussed in Reykjavik.

Remember that at the meeting in the Icelandic capital the United States gave repeated assurances that, if the USSR were to detach the question of medium-range missiles from the Reykjavik package, reaching an accord on their elimination in Europe would present no problems. But now the picture is different. [paragraph continues]

"We can see," M.S. Gorbachev noted, "the question of medium-range missiles accumulating a whole package of conditions and demands on the Soviet Union. We discover that the NATO countries are retreating from the positions of their own 'zero option.'"

Is this not indicated by U.S. President R. Reagan's newly published statement? It was on the conclusion of the latest stage of work in the group on medium-range nuclear armaments at the Soviet-American talks in Geneva. While plugging the U.S. side's "determination" to reach an agreement on medium-range missiles in Europe, the President tried to distort the USSR's approach to talks. He ascribed to the Soviet side a "new position" which, apparently, is "totally unacceptable" to the United States and its allies. Unconstructive elements in the U.S. side's approach were also revealed: The United States is insisting on linking a medium-range missiles agreement to "limitations" on operational and tactical missiles.

What is this if not another trick? After all, the USSR's position is well known: As soon as an agreement is signed on eliminating Soviet and U.S. medium-range missiles in Europe the Soviet Union will withdraw the increased-range operational and tactical missiles from the GDR and CSSR on agreement with those countries' governments. They were stationed there as a countermeasure to the deployment of Pershing-2 and cruise missiles in Western Europe. As for the other operational and tactical missiles, the USSR has said that it is prepared to immediately embark on talks on their reduction and complete elimination. This was reaffirmed during the Warsaw Pact foreign ministers' committee session in Moscow.

Washington and its allies are perfectly well aware of this.

But this is a different matter entirely. The supporters of the arms race on both sides of the Atlantic find the elimination of deadly weapons in Europe a frightening prospect. They have started bleating about "Soviet military superiority," about an agreement on medium-range missiles being a "Russian trick," and so on and so forth. Meanwhile, the United States is trying to impose its negative positions on the NATO allies. This is exemplified by the recent NATO Special Consultative Group session in Brussels. As Allen Holmes, U.S. assistant secretary of state for politico-military affairs, said, the NATO partners "fully supported that U.S. stance" on medium-range missiles in Europe and advocated the continued deployment of U.S. "cruise missiles" in Western Europe. In short, it is the old picture: The minute it becomes possible to reach positive decisions in the disarmament sphere, the NATO countries start looking for excuses to slow down the process.

Washington's maneuvers over a question which is of fundamental significance for the future of Europe are condemned by all honest people. The speediest conclusion of an agreement on medium-range missiles would pave the way for completely ridding Europe of nuclear weapons. That is why the "Atlantic" obstructions must be cleared out of the way.

U.S. 'Hinders' Accord

LD011316 Moscow TASS in English 1158 GMT 1 Apr 87

["U.S. Hinders INF Agreement" -- TASS headline]

[Text] Washington April 1 TASS -- TASS correspondent Nikolay Turkatenko reports:

State Department and White House spokesmen have been assuring public opinion almost daily that the United States is sparing no effort to achieve an agreement with the Soviet Union to eliminate intermediate-range nuclear force (INF) missiles in Europe and reduce their numbers elsewhere in the USSR and the United States.

These assurances, however, have invariably contained a small "but": the Soviet Union must agree to a dramatic increase in U.S. theater missiles or at least to the intermediate-range Pershing-2's on station in Western Europe being converted into shorter range missiles.

The supporting arguments have boiled down to assertions that it is U.S. allies in the North Atlantic bloc that want it this way and that the Soviet Union in Europe enjoys a "lead" over the United States and other NATO countries.

The Pentagon has been readily providing everybody willing with slick tables of falsified data to corroborate the point.

President Reagan in a recent statement declared that what he alleged was a Soviet "monopoly" in theater weapons "clearly is not acceptable" to the United States.

How do things stand in reality, however?

One can get the answer even just by leafing through American newspapers themselves. "Strictly speaking," said THE WASHINGTON POST, "The Soviet Union does not have a monopoly in all short-range missile systems".

The paper then said America had a much greater nuclear potential in Western Europe than the number of Soviet short-range systems cited by the Pentagon in a bid to prove a Soviet "margin of superiority".

THE WASHINGTON POST said Soviet theater missiles had been in Europe for at least 20 years but for some reason the United States had begun showing "concern" over them only recently.

The article did not give an answer to the question of why there had been so much attention given to the short-range missiles lately but quoted experts as saying the dispute over them "could prevent" an INF treaty.

This seems to explain everything.

The American side said in the Icelandic capital that it was prepared to sign an INF agreement and that it would not be difficult to reach it once the Soviet Union separated the issue from the Reykjavik package.

The Soviet Union has now done that so that the problem could be solved and an impetus given to talks on also other matters.

Moreover, it has also proposed working out adequate verification arrangements and expressed readiness for immediate talks on short-range weapons.

This has put the United States before the prospect of a major step forward in arms control. However, it is the last thing wanted by Washington "hawks" which enjoy tremendous influence on the administration and by right-wing quarters, most notably the military-industrial complex.

Their opinion has been reflected in another WASHINGTON POST article urging the administration to rectify what it called a Reykjavik "error" and not to agree to an INF accord in any case.

Trying to 'Torpedo' Talks

LD022019 Moscow World Service in English 1310 GMT 2 Apr 87

[Announcer-read Yuriy Solton commentary]

[Excerpts] And now Yuriy Solton discusses prospects to sign an agreement for medium-range missiles in Europe:

If an agreement of this kind is signed it will prove a notable move toward nuclear disarmament. If it was signed, nations would begin, for the first time, to get rid of nuclear weapons. [passage omitted] Understandably, such a notable reduction in nuclear confrontation would have a favorable effect on the whole international situation. A stimulus would appear to solve other disarmament problems.

When the Soviet Union put forward this initiative 1 month ago, it seemed an agreement could be reached quickly. First, because the Soviet Union almost fully met the NATO proposals for the so-called zero-option, and second, because the principle parameters of an agreement had been coordinated at the Soviet-American summit in Reykjavik. But, in discussing prospects, we have to use the word "if", which is a pity.

All those opposed to nuclear disarmament of any kind have been distorting the picture and trying to torpedo the talks. What is more, they have been influencing the administration in Washington. Word has leaked that at the Geneva talks with the Soviet Union, the American side intends to link the problem of abolishing medium-range missiles with action on the question of tactical missiles. Moreover, the United States is pressing to escalate its missiles of this kind globally in general, and in Europe in particular.

It is the old vicious thesis of disarmament through rearmament. How to stop the arms race instead of legalizing it is what must be discussed. The American wish to link medium-range missiles with the tactical makes you think that this may be an attempt to hinder an agreement.

The Soviet Union believes, according to its Foreign Ministry spokesman, that tactical missiles, too, must be discussed, and given action. But it is strongly against signing a treaty for medium-range missiles to be linked with a decision on tactical missiles. What is more, it's against conditioning one on the other.

Changing NATO Stance

LD022101 Moscow TASS in English 2019 GMT 2 Apr 87

[Text] Moscow April 2 TASS -- Follows commentary by Vladimir Bogachev, TASS military news analyst:

Contrary to Bonn's previous statements. Lothar Ruehl, a spokesman for the West German Defence Ministry, announced the FRG's negative attitude to the Soviet proposal that an agreement be signed on tactical missiles after the medium-range missiles of both sides are eliminated in Europe. Lord Carrington, NATO secretary general, supported Washington's demands for a freeze on the current Euromissile suituation. French Prime Minister Jacques Chirac expressed the view that the NATO's main objective now is a buildup of U.S. shorter range missiles in Europe.

There is an impression that some leaders of the NATO member-countries see their main objective now, as prospects are improving for a positive settlement of the question of the total elimination of medium-range missiles in Europe, in putting up ever new obstacles in the way of lowering the level of military confrontation in Europe.

Quite recently calls came almost daily from the capitals of the European NATO member-countries for the speediest resolution of the problem of medium-range missiles, that a separate agreement be concluded on these missiles. Yet when the Soviet Union proposed that the problem of medium-range missiles be singled out from the package of disarmament issues, and an agreement be concluded on it without delay on the basis of the understanding reached in Reykjavik, the NATO member countries have for some reason immediately changed their stand.

American Ambassador Ronald Lehman, participant in the Geneva talks, pretended that the bilateral elimination of medium-range missiles might ensure unilateral advantages for the Soviet Union, and demanded that the Soviet Union "pay a high price" for the withdrawal of the U.S. nuclear missiles from Western Europe. The leaders of the NATO member-countries forgot their own arguments in defence of the zero option, of the need to untie arms control packages, and began putting forward their own packages, linking, in particular, medium-range missiles with chemical weapons, conventional weapons and forces in Europe and so on and so forth. It must be noted, for that matter, that quite recently the NATO member-countries quite inertly reacted to the specific proposals of the countries of the socialist community on the same issues. They in Paris, Bonn and London are now citing fantastic data about some "military superiority" of the Warsaw Treaty member countries in the spirit of the worst traditions of the White House and the Pentagon.

There is rough parity in military power between the Soviet Union and the United States, between the NATO and Warsaw Treaty countries. In some fields, for example, as regards the number of strategic bombers, the number of nuclear warheads in submarine-launched ballistic missiles, the United States and the other NATO countries have a heavy advantage. But as regards some other types of weapons the Soviet Union and the Warsaw Treaty countries are ahead. A tendency is observed in Washington of putting forward demands for unilateral cuts in arms by the countries of the socialist community, while leaving intact even the American weapons, in which the USA has an obvious superiority.

The Reagan Administration is forcing on the West European NATO countries its obstructionist approach to nuclear disarmament, apparently, seeing in the agreement on the total elimination of medium-range missiles in Europe a threat to its concept of a "limited nuclear war" at a considerable distance from the shores of the United States.

In putting forward its proposals on medium-range missiles, the Soviet Union has again demonstrated its will to resolve the nuclear disarmament problem. The history-making chance to eliminate a whole class of nuclear weapons in Europe will not be missed provided all countries, including the USA, listen to the voice of public, understand the concerns and interests of other peoples and do not separate their security from the security of their neighbours in our world, where everything is so closely interconnected.

NEW DRAFT LEGISLATION TO FURTHER SDI PLANS

LD031742 Moscow TASS in English 1437 GMT 3 Apr 87

[Text] Moscow April 3 TASS -- Military News Analyst Vladimir Bogachev writes:

To make it easier to carry out their programme of "Star Wars" the exponents of militarising outer space in Washington have submitted to the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States Congress draft legislation providing for the creation of a new service of the American Armed Forces -- the U.S. Defense Force and also of a respective department.

The four senators and representatives who submitted the bills believe that this new service should be charged with the task of defending the United States from all threats from the air, including aircraft, ballistic, cruise and other missiles, and should war break out of seizing control over outer space and conducting reconnaissance. Under the draft legislation the new department should be given responsibility over all commands and agencies connected with the use of outer space for military purposes.

One of the tasks of the secretary heading the department of this new service will be to develop space systems for intercepting and destroying intercontinental ballistic missiles, for defence against satellites and to develop mobile ABM systems.

At a press conference Representative Jack Kemp openly stated that the bill creates the foundation for implementing the "Strategic Defense Initiative". He said the issue was not the deployment of an ABM system of the United States but whether the Soviet Union would remain, as he alleged, the only country possessing one. Feigning innocence of pertinent knowledge, Kemp pretends not to know that the limited ABM system around Moscow was deployed in full accordance with the 1972 treaty and that the Soviet Union is by far not "the only country" having an ABM system.

It is well known that the American ABM defence in the Grand Forks area in the north of the United States not only exists but can be reactivated and put in combat readiness within a short period of time.

So the American Senate, which in its time ratified the Soviet-American treaty on the limitation of ABM systems, is now being asked to legalise measures that are absolutely clearly banned by this still operative treaty. For among other points the treaty of 1972 obliges the two sides not to deploy space-based ABM and mobile ground-based anti-missiles.

By their draft legislation the apologists of "Star Wars" not only challenge the common sense of the American law-makers but also openly proclaim the course of seizing control over outer space. This concept totally contradicts the commitment of the United States, adopted during the Soviet-American summit in Geneva, to strive to prevent the arms race from spreading to outer space.

SHEVARDNADZE RECEIVES NEW U.S. ENVOY MATLOCK

LD040923 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 0900 GMT 4 Apr 87

[Text] Eduard Shevardnadze, member of the CPSU Central Committee Politburo and USSR foreign minister, today received Jack Matlock, the newly appointed U.S. ambassador to the USSR. They discussed matters relating to USSR-U.S. relations.

REAGAN APPROVED 'SIMPLER' MANNED SPACE STATION

LD040643 Moscow TASS in English 0636 GMT 4 Apr 87

[Text] Washington April 4 TASS -- U.S. President Reagan Friday gave his go-ahead for the National Aeronautics and Space Administration to build a simpler version of the proposed American manned space station.

While still very impressive, the project will be much more modest than the initial plan and yet, according to current estimates, it will cost nearly eleven billion dollars, or 36 percent more than originally expected.

The revised plan calls for the first components of the station to be delivered to low-earth orbit by reusable spaceships in mid-'94.

PRESIDIUM GRANTS ASYLUM TO U.S. NATIONAL

LD021230 Moscow TASS in English 1200 GMT 2 Apr 87

[Text] Moscow April 2 TASS -- The Presidium of the USSR Supreme Soviet today decreed to grant political asylum to a U.S. national, Mr Roberts, and a West German national, Ms. Neumann, a spokesman for the Soviet Foreign Ministry told a press conference here today.

Roberts and Neumann said they had justified fears that they would be victimized in the West for their progressive views.

Roberts had already been subjected to persecution in the U.S. Army. He served in the Federal Republic of Germany.

SHABAYEV: U.S. 'MALICIOUS' TOWARD SOVIET 'BOLD STEPS'

LD021713 Moscow TASS in English 1427 GMT 2 Apr 87

["Malicious Lies" -- TASS headline]

[Text] Moscow April 2 TASS -- Follows commentary by Boris Shabayev, a TASS political news analyst:

It has already become a rule with Washington to drown mankind's survival problems in the swamp of most absurd and malicious insinuations.

Each time the Soviet Union takes a new bold step in search of a way out of the impasse of the arms race, of fear and mutual distrust, when a gleam of hope begins to be seen in the approaches to a settlement of the issues concerning the destinies of the whole civilisation, a fresh anti-Soviet action is launched in order to try and poison the atmosphere and foil the settlement of long-ripe problems.

It is precisely by that rule that the Washington administration was apparently guided in pushing through the U.S. Congress the resolution on the alleged violations by the Soviet Union of its international commitments in the field of human rights. The authors of that false resolution reveal their true aims by the claim that these "violations" prevent the attainment of "meaningful agreements" between the USA and the USSR.

It is not difficult to see the underlying political reasons of that formula. For several months they overseas continued incessantly the propaganda outcry that it was allegedly the Soviet Union's intransigence in the way to reaching agreements on the limitations and reduction of weapons since, as they claim, the Soviet Union does not wish to "unite" the Reykjavik package.

Yet as soon as the Soviet Union, which is guided by its invariable policy of a quest for settlement opening the way to mutually acceptable agreements and equal security, came out with the proposal that the problem of medium-range missiles in Europe be singled out from the package of questions, and a separate agreement be immediately concluded on it, as Washington and some of its NATO allies immediately started piling up new obstacles, attaching all sorts of far-fetched strings and demands torn off from realities. Among this pile is also a resolution forced on the U.S. Congress. Such actions can be described only as the wish to put up an air of decency, while trying to foil the Soviet initiative.

There is another, no less sordid aim of that provocative action: it is to present in a distorted light the processes of reorganisation and of further development of socialist democracy, which are gaining momentum in the Soviet Union. This was commented on with a good knowledge of the matter the other day by Uwe Engelbrecht, a correspondent of the West German KOELNER STADT ANZEIGER in Moscow. He pointed out that as a witness he is amazed at the speed and consistency of the reorganisation in the USSR and stressed that these changes are far from suiting the book of all people in the West. An American journalist openly pointed out in his article that what is happening in the USSR is an ideological disaster for the powers that be in Washington.

Hence they invent falsehoods one more absurd than the other.

CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEE VOTES TO CUT AID TO INDIA

LD032258 Moscow TASS in English 2041 GMT 3 Apr 87

[Text] Washington April 3 TASS -- The Foreign Affairs Committee of the House of Representatives of the United States Congress voted Thursday to slash by 15 million dollars the economic development aid promised to India.

The ASSOCIATED PRESS described this act as an open manifestation of Washington's displeasure with India's "closeness" to the Soviet Union.

As reported by the agency, one of the reasons of this displeasure was the recent statement by the Indian prime minister that the Soviet military contingent was sent to Afghanistan on the request of the Afghan Government. The author of the amendment to cut economic aid to India, Representative William Broomfield, complained that India was following a road which, he said, was not in the interests of the United States.

The scaling down of economic aid to India is actually a sanction against one of the biggest world powers. The American congressmen want to dictate to Delhi what course India should follow thereby flagrantly violating the right of every people to its own choice. It is also a vivid manifestation of Washington's imperial ambitions and its empahsis on brawn in politics.

The successfully developing Soviet-Indian relations have a favourable influence on the international situation on the regional and world scale. By force of their example the USSR and India are asserting in the practice of international relations the principles of a nuclear weapons-free and non-violent world spelled out in a famous document of our time -- the Delhi Declaration.

'SERIOUS DIFFERENCES' ON U.S.-CANADA TRADE ISSUES

LD060953 Moscow TASS in English 0928 GMT 6 Apr 87

[Text] Ottawa April 6 TASS -- President Ronald Reagan of the United States has arrived in the Canadian capital for a two-day official visit.

He will hold talks with Canadian Prime Minister Brian Mulroney. Canadian officials have said the U.S. President and the Canadian prime minister will discuss the most acute problems of bilateral relations as well as some international issues.

Serious differences between the two countries are aroused by trade issues. Washington, while advocating in words a "free" flow of goods across the U.S.-Canadian border, in actual fact puts one obstacle after another in the path of Canadian export.

Restrictions on the import of Canadian wood-working industry products and potassium carbonate into the United States were imposed recently. It is planned to introduce duties on Canadian steel and farm products.

The so-called "acid rains", caused by emissions from U.S. industrial plants and inflicting tremendous damage to lakes and wildlife in Canada, are yet another acute problem in relations between the two countries.

The Canadians are indignant at the U.S. Administration's unwillingness to take specific measures to combat acid rains.

On the eve of Reagan's visit, the National Assembly of Quebec Province passed a resolution urging Brian Mulroney to take a firm stand when discussing the issue.

The dispute between the two neighbouring countries over the right to navigation in the Arctic to the north of Canada continues unabated.

Ottawa is of the opinion that those are Canadian territorial waters. Washington does not recognize Canadian sovereignty over Arctic waters, regarding them as an international waterway and unilaterally assuming a right to navigation in the area.

Mass media report that at the talks the President of the United States will raise the issue of the "need" for an increase in Canada's military expenditure which, in Washington's view, are at too low of a level.

There will be also exchanges of views on matters aimed at curbing the arms race, on regional conflicts, and on the problem of terrorism.

PRAVDA CITES CANADIAN'S 'ANTI-SOVIET FABRICATIONS'

PM031452 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 3 Apr 87 First Edition p 5

[Own correspondent V. Shelkov "Rejoinder": "The General's Admiral-Like Fervor"]

[Text] Ottawa -- Busy as he is, Brigadier General Peter Taggart, chief of a Canadian armed forces college, recently found time to write an article. It is not for domestic consumption, but for export. It was published in the March issue of the naval bulletin PROCEEDINGS, published in the United States.

Like any article designed for export, the product which emerged from the general's pen met the client's basic requirements. First and foremost the article contained an obligatory element, the reference to the "Soviet military threat." Second, it testified to Taggart's concern about the inadequacy of Canada's military efforts.

What else, one may ask, does an item need to arouse "cheers" in an American military press organ?

The author surpassed himself, as the saying goes. The general, sitting in Toronto, set about analyzing, with the daring of an admiral, the situation not just anywhere, but in the Pacific, which washes Canada's western shores. There, beyond the high mountain range, the author of the article has spotted a terrible "Soviet naval armada." He rang the ship's bells, calling on Ottawa -- to the pleasure of the American editors -- speedily to "set sail" in the expanses of the great ocean. There, Taggart writes, Canada badly needs a modern navy, a submarine detection system, powerful marine aviation, and its own submarines. The author recommends setting up permanent naval forces in the Pacific, uniting ships belonging to the United Staes, Japan, South Korea, Australia, New Zealand, and Canada. And so on. And so forth.

It is hard to say what made the general plunge into the stormy waves of anti-Soviet fabrications. One thing is clear -- his admiral-like fervor is not very attractive. It has a painful resemblance to the yarns told by a ship's boy who makes himself out to be an experienced sea wolf.

PRAVDA VIEWS FUTURE OF SOUTH KOREAN'S CHON TU-HWAN

PM031120 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 3 Apr 87 First Edition p 5

["Commentator's Column" by Sergey Tikhomirov: "The President 'Washes His Hands'"]

[Text] In a speech in New York in February of this year U.S. Assistant Secretary of State G. Sigur proposed that after resigning, South Korean President Chon Tu-hwan should join the ranks of "retired statesmen who no longer play an active part in politics." And now Chon Tu-hwan seems to have taken the first step toward such "retirement." AFP has reported that he has handed over the power to conduct talks with the opposition concerning constitutional amendments to No Tae-u, chairman of the ruling party.

Let me recall that the problem of the reform of South Korea's fundamental law has been on the agenda constantly at least since last summer. It was then, after a whole series of powerful protests whose participants demanded that the country's population be granted the right to direct presidential elections, that the head of the Seoul administration was forced to agree to setting up a special parliamentary commission to review the constitution. But it very soon became clear that Chon's "concession" was only a maneuver by which he hoped to relax the atmosphere in the country.

What lies behind the ambitious president's decision to "wash his hands?" The answer to this question should obviously be sought in Washington's position. Strategists there have recently made no secret of their concern over the development of the domestic political situation in their Far East "patrimony." Thus U.S. Secretary of State G. Shultz, visiting South Korea in March of this year, made it clear that he supports the recent statement by his assistant G. Sigur on the need "to make South Korean political life 'civilian' forever." And although Chon has long since substituted a civilian overcoat for his officer's uniform, the vast majority of those who are at the helm of power in South Korea today are still former military men.

Washington is very well informed about the unprecedented growth of anti-Americanism in the south of the Korean Peninsula, and not only among young people, but also in the ranks of the official opposition. People on the banks of the Potomac also know about the dissatisfaction with the Seoul regime's policy. What is to be done? After all, it is not only a question of the future of the Pentagon bases in South Korea, but also of U.S. strategy in the Far East as a whole.

Chon Tu-hwan's decision to hand over to No Tae-u the functions of intermediary at talks with the opposition is a relatively clear indication of who is intended to become master of the Blue House. True, unlike Chon Tu-hwan, his classmate at the military academy, No Tae-u has not earned the title of lieutenant general, but it is common knowledge that he was closely involved in elevating Chon to the "throne." The overt U.S. reaction to the upheavals in Seoul will become clear in the near future. As will the future developments in South Korea.

DPRK GROUP SAYS U.S. PREPARING FOR NUCLEAR WAR

LD041403 Moscow TASS in English 1358 GMT 4 Apr 87

[Text] Pyongyang April 4 TASS -- The United States is conducting practical preparations for nuclear warfare on the Korean Peninsula, the Secretariat of the Committee for a Peaceful Reunification of the Fatherland said in a statement here today.

It based the statement on information from Japanese sources that U.S. troops stationed in South Korea include a unit engaged in planning nuclear operations.

The occupation force from last year has also incorporated a para-military formation whose task is to clean up terrain after uses of nuclear, biological and chemical weapons.

Those facts demonstrated, the statement said, that Washington's militarist preparations on the Korean Peninsula had entered a new and even more dangerous phase.

MILITARY COMMENTATOR ON U.S. NUCLEAR FORCE IN ROK

SK060403 Moscow International Service in Korean 0930 GMT 3 Apr 87

[Talk by station military commentator Colonel (Eduard Asatrov): "Asia Should Not Become the Theater of a Nuclear War" -- recorded in Russian fading into Korean translation"]

[Text] Hiroshima, Nagasaki, and Bikini are well known to the world. Hiroshima and Nagasaki were victims of U.S. atomic bombings, and Bikini is a U.S. nuclear test site where 68 nuclear explosions have taken place over the past 4 years. Korea and Vietnam were supposed to suffer from fate. The United States was planning to do something against these two Asian peoples.

Catastrophic consequences of the nuclear explosions are still conspicuous. The names of the Japanese people burnt to death by nuclear explosions or dead of radioactivity are remembered not only by their families and relatives. Hiroshima and Nagasaki were revived, thanks to those who rebuilt them. However, Bikini and many other islands have been reduced to desert islands. It is dangerous to live in a land contaminated by radioactivity. Therefore, people cannot live there. Radioactive fallout fell over 7,000 square kilometers of ocean surface. Water and air contaminated by nuclear explosions in Bikini have been detected as far as 2,000 km away, at the entrance to the United States' designated restricted area. Many consequences that arise from such tests can be prevented, but happened anyway as a result of the tests.

No one dares to imagine what would be the result if some of the 1,000 U.S. nuclear bombs currently deployed in South Korea were used. It is not important to talk about where the explosions will take place and where mushroom clouds will occur -- the North or the South of Korea, because the entire Korean Peninsula would suffer damage from these explosions. Calculations show that the density of deployment of U.S. nuclear bombs in South Korea is higher than in Western Europe. However, the possibility of abolishing U.S. nuclear missiles is increasing. Their abolition will not be realized as we wish, and all the missiles cannot be removed at the same time, but the possibility is increasing.

The situation in Korea is different from that in Europe. The Pershing-2, U.S. missiles whose fate is being discussed at talks in Europe, is scheduled to be introduced into Korea under the pretext of modernizing U.S. forces. Also, it is foreseen that prior to this, U.S. Lance missiles will be introduced to arm the South Korean Army. Lance missiles are capable of carrying nuclear warheads.

In an interview by a WASHINGTON POST reporter, General Livsey, commander of the U.S.-South Korean combined forces, stated that Americans should possess a certain number of long-range weapons. Does this mean that these weapons are less dangerous to the Korean people than to the Europeans? No, it does not.

A nuclear explosion means (?indiscretion) both in Europe and Asia. A nuclear explosion can be more dangerous in Asia, because of the denser population in this area. Also because the [passage indistinct] of missiles in Europe has been created. The Soviet Union has deployed 355 missiles to counter 1,380 U.S. medium-range missiles in Europe. This plays the role of cooling the heads of bellicose NATO elements who like to set nuclear weapons in motion.

However, what can happen in Asia? The appearance of U.S. medium-range missiles will bring about a notable change in the strategic situation in the Far East. Thus, the situation will become more unstable.

The range of a Pershing-2 missile is 2,500 km. People's Korea, China, and a vast area of the Soviet Far East are within this range. Also, the Indochinese countries are within this range. The socialist countries cannot but take this fact into account when they organize the defense of their territories.

Experience in Europe shows that the deployment of U.S. medium-range missiles tempted NATO generals to view Europe as a site of military action. Where is the guarantee that there will be no such dangerous ambition in the U.S.-South Korean combined forces command? Furthermore, the war fever of this command has very frequently and aggressively surfaced. This is shown by "Team Spirit-87," the ongoing large-scale U.S.-South Korean military exercise.

The Soviet people, who lost approximately 20 million sons and daughters during World War II overflow with resolve to prevent nuclear calamities. They have proposed abolishing nuclear weapons on earth by 2000. China, another power in Asia with the Soviet Union, assumes the obligation of not using nuclear weapons first. People's Korea has proposed that the Korean Peninsula be turned into a nuclear-free zone. This is the only way to prevent the occurrence of an even more horrendous tragedy than Hiroshima and Nagasaki in Asia. Only joint efforts can help to prevent Asia from being reduced to an area like Bikini which has been turned into a desert area due to radioactivity.

The Asian people want their continent to be peaceful and prosperous. They do not want it to become a site for military action filled with nuclear weapons.

IZVESTIYA EDITOR MEETS JAPAN'S KURANARI

OW031205 Tokyo KYODO in English 1156 GMT 3 Apr 87

[Text] Tokyo, April 3 KYODO -- Ivan D. Laptev, editor-in-chief of the Soviet Government newspaper IZVESTIYA, said Friday the Soviet Union needs good external relations and arms control to promote social and economic reforms now underway in his country, a Foreign Ministry official said.

In talks with Foreign Minister Tadashi Kuranari, Laptev said he has been asked by many Japanese about the Soviet reform plan. He said the reform aims at easing controls from the top by increasing economic independence, the official said.

"Promotion of the reform requires the maintenance of good relations with foreign countries and attainment of arms control," he was quoted as saying. Laptev said he believed few Soviet young people are opposed to the reform.

Laptev, an ecological expert, told Kuranari ecological problems will become an issue as important as peace and war in 10 to 15 years, the official said.

Kuranari called for the need to promote balanced bilateral relations and deepen understanding between the two countries, he said.

U.S. 'GLEEFUL' AT PAKISTAN DOWNING OF DRA PLANE

LD031817 Moscow TASS in English 1414 GMT 3 Apr 87

[Text] Moscow April 3 TASS -- TASS news analyst Valeriy Vavilov writes:

The latest piratic action of the Pakistani military is called "premeditated murder" in the legal language: An Afghan transport was shot down and 40 passengers and crew members, including two children, were killed.

If we continue legal analogies, the crime was perpetrated "with aggravating circumstances": A civilian plane on a regular flight from Kabul to Khowst was attacked over Afghanistan's Tsamkani District, Paktia Province, in the morning of March 30 by two fighters of the Pakistani Air Force, and was shot down with air-to-air missiles. The plane crashed in the mountains on Afghan territory.

The Pakistani authorities, trying to shirk responsibility for the crime, claimed that the Afghan plane had "intruded into Pakistani air space." Moreover, there came "victory reports" touting "the remarkable success of the Pakistani Air Force."

But lies have short legs. Islamabad's statements had the only purpose of misleading world public opinion and avoiding responsibility for the gory crime.

The mechanics of the crime will be clear if we take a look at the map. Khowst is a small Afghan town near the Pakistani border and planes are clearly visible from the Pakistani highlands across the border as they take off from or land at the Khowst Airfield. The route to Kabul is virtually parallel to the Pakistani-Afghan border and the Pakistani pilots must have used with perfect electronics and American missiles to spot a slow civilian plane, ambush it and shoot it down as in target practice.

The political motivation of the tragedy, which claimed 40 Afghan lives, also is clear. There have appeared prospects for the political settlement of the situation related to Afghanistan, which clearly is not to the liking of Washington and some of its allies. To block political settlement when "real and concrete progress" has been achieved. Washington is using every means of putting pressure on Pakistan to prevent accord. It is in this atmosphere of tension and strain that opportunities for air piracy appear.

Some people in Washington are gleeful: The tragedy has fueled tensions in relations between Afghanistan and Pakistan. The same purpose, the escalation of tensions, is being promoted by billions of dollars given by the United States in military and economic aid to Islmabad, the supply of Stinger ground-to-air missiles to Dushmans so that they should attack civilian planes, and shameless anti-Afghan and anti-Soviet allegiations.

Islamabad should give thought to the possible consequences of such piractic actions and the blind following in the wake of Washington's militarist policy.

DRA Disputes Junejo Explanation

PM061033 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 3 Apr 87 Morning Edition p 5

[TASS report: "Accusations Rejected"]

[Text] Kabul, 2 Apr -- An official DRA Foreign Ministry spokesman has refuted a statement by Pakistani Prime Minister M.K. Junejo that an Afghan An-26 passenger aircraft was allegedly shot down over Pakistani territory.

Answering a BAKHTAR question on the circumstances surrounding the incident, which led to the death of 40 people, he pointed out that the accusations made against the Afghan side are aimed at misleading international public opinion.

The statements by Junejo, who stated in an interview with a BBC correspondent that the Afghan plane was attacked by missiles soon after entering 16 km into Pakistani airspace and refusing to land at Parachinar Airport, are devoid of common sense. The Foreign Ministry spokesman noted that, first, a passenger plane could not have flown such a distance into foreign territory in the clear weather prevailing on 30 March; second, the type is easily identifiable even without the complex equipment fitted to F-16 fighters; and third, it would be simply incapable of refusing to land if forced to do so by such supermodern combat aircraft. Finally, the An-26 could in no way carry out intelligence tasks, much less with passengers aboard, as alleged by the Pakistani prime minister and defense minister. The groundlessness of Junejo's statements is also borne out by the fact that the downed plane crashed on Afghan, not Pakistani, territory.

Thus, the Afghan spokesman stressed, the very fact that a civil airliner was shot down and unsubstantiated remarks made against the DRA show that Islamabad intends to deepen still further tension on the border and in relations between the two countries as a whole. Taking into account the resumption of talks in Geneva, the approach by the Pakistani side at a crucial stage is alarming.

The Foreign Ministry spokesman also pointed to the growing danger for civil air traffic in Afghanistan both from U.S.-backed extremist gangs and from the Pakistani Air Force. Dwelling on the causes of Pakistan's blatantly hostile stance toward the DRA, the spokesman noted that the Islamabad authorities are toeing the line of U.S. foreign policy. Obtaining a huge quantity of modern weapons from the United States, he said, Pakistan's military regime carries out the commands it receives from Washington aimed at ensuring U.S. domination in Southwest Asia.

The people of democratic Afghanistan learned with anger and sadness of the death of 40 of their countrymen, including 2 children. This barbaric action by the Pakistani militarists runs counter to the norms of international law. This was stated by participants in protest rallies held yesterday at a number of institutions and educational establishments and at factories and plants in Kabul and other Afghan cities. A rally of students at the Kabul Polytechnical Institute expressed its concern with regard to the persistent attempts by the DRA's enemies to wreck the incipient process of national reconciliation in the country. "Armed provocation" and "act of aggression" was how the downing of the passenger airliner was described by workers at the DRA Ministry of Civil Aviation. "The reasons behind the Pakistani authorities' actions lie in the general anti-Afghan thrust of the policy of official Islamabad, which does not think about the interests of its own people and obediently carries out the White House's instructions," workers at the Kabul Housing Construction Combine pointed out. [paragraph continues]

Protest rallies adopted collective messages to the United Nations secretary general, angrily condemning Pakistan's actions. "Islamabad is striving to scuttle the Geneva talks and wreck the DRA Government's efforts aimed at ensuring the speediest political settlement to the situation around Afghanistan," the messages point out.

The Afghan Central Trade Union Council appealed to the WFTU to organize an international protest campaign against the Pakistani military's crimes and the Afghan terror gangs it supports. "An attack on a defenseless passenger plane is unforgivable," the Trade Union Central Council message stressed.

BAKHTAR reported that yesterday in Kabul the ambassadors and charges d'affaires of friendly states were given explanations relating to the circumstances surrounding the loss of the plane downed over Chamkani District.

ATTACK ON USSR TERRITORY SAID DIRECTED BY WEST

LD032250 Moscow Television Service in Russian 1430 GMT 3 Apr 87

[From the "Vremya" newscast; M. Leshchinskiy video report from Afghanistan]

[Text] We arrived in this old, ruined, and to all appearances abandoned village with Soviet sappers. It was from here that the rayon center of Pyandzh, in Tajikistan, on Soviet territory, was fired on. Reports came in that one person had been killed, and two injured, including one child. As you can see, the search for the positions from which the fire was directed, and for ammunition dumps, is in progress here. [video shows Leshchinskiy with microphone against background of two parked BTR-60s, with soldiers searching the ground]

We already have the first resutls. Here is one of them -- this map. The inscription here is in English: Afghanistan, and marked on it are the positions of Soviet and Afghan forces. Gunnery calculations for bombardment of targets both in Afghanistan and on the territory of our country are indicated. It is clear even to the unitiated that this map was compiled professionally, that is evidently by Western advisers, in Pakistan, or perhaps further away. The calculations are expertly made, the targets precisely indicated. It is most likely that this map was used for the bombardment I have mentioned already. [video shows Leshchinskiy displaying map with English heading "Soviet garrison," an illegible word, then "Afghanistan"]

This is what happened just before our arrival here: In a matter of minutes Soviet pilots, flying at low altitude, discovered the area from which the bandits had fired 12 rockets. Soviet and Afghan units, brought out by the alarm call, ringed the area with armor. [video shows two MI-24 helicopters, flying low, apparently filmed from a third aircraft; soldiers walking across field; tank turning off road over ditch]

It was proposed that civilians evacuate the area where the bandit formations were deployed. Along their route they were given medical and material aid. [video shows villagers gathering belongings; crowd, mainly of children, and seated Afghan officer dispensing medicine] Only after this, on special orders from the Supreme Extraordinary Commission for National Reconciliation, return fire was opened on the concentration of terrorists. [video shows at least four self-propelled guns and one tank firing.]

In this way an act of international terrorism, conceived by the mercenaries and their transatlantic masters on a large scale, was terminated. The bands were destroyed. [video shows large display of submachine guns, bolt-action rifles, belts of machine gun ammunition, cartridge clips, and loose ammunition, mortars, rockets and antitank weapons]. Dushmans who survived and surrendered said that they were sent to this region of the country on the direct orders of the so-called untamed ringleaders of the counterrevolution, who, on the instructions of their sponsors, have rejected the very idea of national reconciliation. [video shows turbaned Afghans, dushman prisoners; Afghan soldiers stacking weaponry]

Several hundred men were specially trained and equipped to carry out this impudent operation, which had obvious provocative political aims. However, it exposed a further aim -- the same old, carefully disguised wish of the transatlantic neoglobalists to see Afghanistan as a bridgehead for aggression against the USSR. [video shows captive dushmans filing past stacked weapons]

IRRIGATION COOPERATION ACCORD SIGNED WITH INDIA

LD040913 Moscow TASS in English 0741 GMT 4 Apr 87

[Text] New Delhi April 4 TASS -- TASS correspondent Leonid Kotov reports:

The Ministry of Land Improvement and Water Management of the USSR and the Indian Ministry of Water Resources signed a long-term program for bilateral cooperation in irrigation and water development schemes here yesterday.

The program, which covers the years till century's end, is a further step in developing Soviet-Indian relations in economic, scientific and technological fields to mutual advantage.

It aims to carry forward the two countries' cooperation in designing and building various irrigation projects based on newest technology and on advanced Soviet experience in creating canals and dams by directed blasts and constructing major water development schemes in seismic zones and on unstable ground.

The program also provides for developing mathematical models of water development projects, designing automated control systems for irrigation canals, adopting environmental protection measures which have become increasingly important, and maintaining ecological balance.

Speaking in a TASS interview, Naresh Chandra, secretary of the Indian Ministry of Water Resources, said the newly-signed program should make a practical contribution to implementing accords reached by Mikhail Gorbachev, general secretary of the CPSU Central Commitee, and Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi of India during the Soviet leader's visit to this country last November.

He added that cooperation in building major dams and irrigation canals was of priority significance to his country.

Chandra explained that drawing on the USSR's valuable experience and employing Soviet methods for digging irrigation canals and construction water development schemes in arid areas would help India open up vast terrorities that had been previously considered unfit for agriculture.

GORBACHEV CSSR VISIT; POSTPONED OVER 'SLIGHT COLD'

LD051545 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1515 GMT 5 Apr 87

[Text] Prague, 5 Apr (TASS) -- A press center opened in Prague today which is to cover the forthcoming official friendly visit to the CSSR of Mikhail Gorbachev, general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, at the invitation of the CPCZ. About 300 foreign journalists have been accredited to the press center from more than 40 countries on the five continents, including correspondents from 13 major television companies.

Roman Narozny, CSSR deputy foreign minister, has announced that by mutual accord, the visit of Mikhail Gorbachev to the CSSR will take place in the second half of next week due to a slight cold.

During the news conference, R. Narozny, (I. Frano), director of the press center, and J. Soukup, head of the press department of the CSSR Foreign Ministry, answered journalists' questions.

Postponement Over Dubcek

DW061100 Hamburg BILD in German 6 Apr 87 pp 1, 4

[Unattributed article: "Did Gorbachev Want To See Dubcek?"]

[Text] The power struggle between Gorbachev and the opponents of his reform policy obviously has reached a dramatic new climax. As BILD learned from reliable sources in Moscow on Sunday, Gorbachev allegedly did not postpone his CSSR visit because of a "slight cold," but because he wanted to see the Prague reform politician Dubcek, who was deprived of power. Gorbachev wanted to stay in Prague 2 days and then go to Bratislava, where Dubcek lives as a pensioner.

Because of that plan, there reportedly have been extremely vehement controversies between the Prague party leadership and the Kremlin. Because Gorbachev obviously has been unable to assert himself, he got a "political flu."

According to the Moscow sources, Gorbachev wanted to demonstrate by his meeting with Dubcek that he is serious about "glasnost" (openness). Dubcek had intended for the CSSR and communism 20 years ago what Gorbachev is now implementing step-by-step in the Soviet Union, the sources said.

By meeting Dubcek, BILD's sources said, he not only wanted to rehabilitate the former Prague reform politician, but he also wanted to send a signal. He did not at all intend to reactivate him politically, because he, Dubcek, was "obviously worn out." Gorbachev is said to be seeking to install a new, "more liberal communist government" in Prague to be led by Bohuslav Chnoupek (62), who has been foreign minister for many years. He is said to be strong and liberal enough to implement "glasnost" even in the CSSR.

BILD learned, moreover, that Gorbachev wants to have a "liberal" communism of the "Hungarian type" for the Soviet partner countries. He is also planning to reduce the Soviet Armed Forces in the Warsaw Pact countries. Verbatim: It does not make any difference whether there are 80,000 or 30,000 Soviet troops in the CSSR -- the West would and could not launch an attack anyway!

Pre-Visit Loginov Interview

LD040929 [Editorial Report] Prague Domestic Service in Czech at 1425 GMT on 3 April 1987 broadcasts the weekly "People and the World" program, introduced by an unidentified presenter with interviews from the USSR by correspondents Stefan Simak and Petr Lukes. Beginning the 25-minute program, which is to be devoted in part to the "present and future of Czechoslovak-Soviet relations," the presenter introduces Vadim Loginov, USSR deputy minister of foreign affairs, and asks him to speak on the occasion of the upcoming visit to CPSU General Secretary M.S. Gorbachev to the CSSR.

Speaking in Russian fading into superimposed Czech translation, Loginov says: "During the recent period since the April 1985 Plenum of the party's Central Committee, contacts between leading officials of our parties, states, and governments have become of a markedly regular nature. I can cite the visit by Comrade Husak to Moscow, and numerous meetings, both bilateral and with wider participation of leading representatives of our fraternal parties and states. These meetings will continue, and of great importance in this regard is the time when these talks will take place.

"It is an exceptionally extraordinary international situation in which the Soviet Union, the Warsaw Pact member states, are taking basic steps toward the positions of the West with the intention of finally mobilizing the process of real disarmament, in particular in Europe, where the largest amount of arms is concentrated -- both conventional and nuclear and chemical -- as well as the largest number of armies.

"Czechoslovakia is in the geographical center of Europe. Last September I stood next to a stone on which it is engraved that this is the center of Europe. It is not far from Frantiskovy Lazne if I am not mistaken. This very fact of fate itself compels us to speak about European affairs, about possible measures in which we would develop our joint initiatives aimed at weakening military confrontation in Europe. There is much to talk about, even concerning the further development of our cooperation, bilateral contacts in economics, in science, technology, culture and education. We have had many successes, but even more potential. The scientific, technical and economic potential of both our contries, highly developed in the scientific and technical and economic area, could be made use of much more effectively for the benefit of our own and your country. We are firmly convinced of this. This also will have to be a subject of talks.

"We are very interested in experiences gathered by our Czechoslovak friends in all areas of the economy, the life of society, the development of the democratic process. It is therefore possible to say with confidence that the program on which Czechoslovak comrades are now working, naturally also with regard to the wishes of Mikhail Sergeyevich Gorbachev, will no doubt include not only official talks, but visits to a whole number of work collectives, industrial enterprises, agricultural workplaces, whether cooperatives or state farms, and possibly also other towns. What is being planned is simply an extensive visit on many levels. We expect that its result will be a new stimulus to the comprehensive development of our contacts, which have been developing well up to now, but must develop even more dynamically in all areas -- political, economic and cultural-- in concrete contacts between the citizens of our countries."

The program then turns to the area of cooperation in science, with an interview given by CEMA Secretary Vyacheslav Sychev. He praises Czechoslovak activity in the complex program of the socialist community. Czechoslovakia takes part in solving about 95 percent of problems of the program and has entered into about 50 international agreements within the program's framework. About 370 Czechoslovak organizations are involved in cooperation among CEMA member states, he adds.

The studio presenter continues: "Our Moscow correspondent Stefan Simak asked Vadim Loginov two questions: the first concerning the proposal by Czechoslovakia and the GDR on the creation of a nuclear-free zone in central Europe; the second asking how Loginov evaluates the cooperation of Warsaw Pact member states in realizing the Budapest appeal."

Loginov replies: "I will say right at the beginning that the first and second questions are extremely important. Both were the topic of talks at the just completed session of the Warsaw Pact Foreign Ministers' Committee. The initiative of Czechoslovakia and the GDR, and I would say in fact two initiatives -- one concerns the nuclear-free corridor, and the second a chemical weapon-free zone -- has the unconditional support of not only the Soviet Union, but also all states of the Warsaw Pact and generally of a large number of other European governments. You know that even the late Swedish Prime Minister Olof Palme received this idea with enthusiasm. In government circles and, in particular, among the public it also enjoys wide support. It will, it appears, be necessary to more actively gain the support of the government in Bonn so that it also shows a more stimulating approach. So far it looks as if the West German Social Democrats have taken up an open and positive attitude and even cooperate with you and comrades from the GDR on this subject; but the government is avoiding the problem. It is clearly time for wide political circles of the West German public to become actively involved and bring both Bonn and, naturally, also Washington to a more active policy, because there is also a number of U.S. weapons in the relevant area.

"As far as we are concerned, we not only support this idea but we naturally are prepared to take practical steps for its realization on the basis of reciprocity, however. You are informed about our statement that we are willing, immediately after entering into an agreement on medium-range missiles in Europe, to undertake the liquidation of increased range operational and tactical missiles that are sited within the frameworks of agreements with your government and with the GDR Government on the territory of Czechoslovakia and the GDR. We do not have the least interest in leaving these missiles there, because they were placed there after NATO installed Pershing-2 and cruise missiles. Then we made it known in a statement by Comrade Gorbachev on 27 February, and very clearly, that we also will undertake immediately talks on the reduction and removal of operationally tactical missiles in this area. These, then, are completely practical measures on how to reduce the level of immediate confrontation in the zone of contact of troops of the two groups, the Warsaw Pact and NATO.

"The second question concerns conventional weapons and arms forces in Europe, including central Europe. You know that there exists a collective initiative formulated in the appeal of the Budapest meeting of the Warsaw Pact political Consultative Committee, addressed to the NATO member states and all European countries. Our states in the near future are willing to undertake a great reduction -- let us say about 150,000 men on each side -- the reduction of the number of tactical air forces; and some time in the nineties the number should fall by more than 1 million soldiers and officers on both sides. This is no small number for Europe or even just central Europe. I would like to point out that in this program it is stated that the first armies to be reduced would be those that are sited directly on the line of contact. Contained in it was also a proposal suggesting that there should be simultaneous talks about the reduction of the number of operationally tectical missiles. This proposal, then, is on the table, and our allies energetically are putting it forward.

"You no doubt know that the Warsaw Pact proposed a meeting of both commanders in chief, but General Rogers did not agree. Perhaps he was a little frightened; I do not know. But who better than they to evaluate the problem of the number of armed forces? Then there was a proposal of a meeting of general secretaries of both pacts, Lord Carrington and Minister of State Krolikowski; that is Krolikowski made this proposal. Carrington declined.

Simply it was a sort of game of hide-and-seek. Finally, in the end there was success when the NATO parties agreed to consultations with the Warsaw Pact member states, and these consultations are now taking place in Vienna. What is taking place there is the process of the mandate for future talks on the reduction of armed forces and conventional weapons in Europe, in the geographical area from the Atlantic Ocean to the Urals. For the moment what is taking place is what I would call a mutual testing of each others' positions, but gradually criteria are being outlined on which a framework of talks could be founded. There are disagreements here. The Warsaw Pact member states would prefer these talks to take place within the framework of an all-European process, for example, at a Stockholm-2 conference. Naturally it is not important where this conference would take place, but we are intentionally calling it Stockholm-2. What should be discussed there is not only the degree of trust, but also the question of disarmament, because this also corresponds to the Madrid mandate.

"The representatives of NATO, on the contrary, wish the talks to be with the participation of 23 countries, that is NATO and Warsaw Pact member states. Many neutral and nonaligned nations naturally are not happy with this, and this is why we at the Foreign Ministers' Committee once again with all official emphasis stressed in the document that in our opinion representatives of neutral and nonaligned countries should take part in such talks.

"This does not just depend on us, however. The main goal despite all this remains the reduction of arms and armed forces in Europe. At which forum this problem will be solved in the final analysis is not important for European nations. But to remove the right from anyone to take part in such talks is in our opinion not just. That is how I would answer the second question."

Following a musical interlude the program turns to economic relations between Czechoslovakia and the Soviet Union, with an interview with the director general of a Moscow agricultural combine. He praised the contacts with Czechoslovak enterprises and their experiences, which have been useful in Moscow.

Vadim Loginov also was asked his view about new possibilities of cooperation. He pointed out that the new possibilities of direct contacts between individual enterprises have the potential to give great results. He pointed out that the new possibilities of direct contacts between individual enterprises have the potential to give great results, and spoke about such cooperation between a Soviet and Bulgarian enterprise where these results are already taking place. Possibilities are now much greater than they were even 6 months ago, he says.

Shishlin on CSSR Restructuring

LD041154 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 0930 GMT 4 Apr 87

[Nikolay Shishlin commentary from the "International Diary" program, presented by Nadezhda Ryasova]

[Text] Czechoslovakia is preparing to welcome an eminent Soviet guest. Next week sees the start of the visit to the CSSR by Mikhail Sergeyevich Gorbachev, general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee. Much attention is being paid to this by the press, not only in Czechoslovakia but also in other socialist states. Political observer Nikolay Shishlin tells of the importance of the forthcoming visit by Mikhail Sergeevich Gorbachev:

[Shishlin] I think that the main importance of the visit is political. Insofar as the restructuring that is underway in the USSR has perhaps a broad significance, there is also underway a process of restructuring socialist international relations.

Indeed, all the socialist countries have much to thank these socialist international relations for. But time passes. Of course, every socialist country today, by virtue of its development, has the potential to make an immeasurably greater contribution to the enrichment of the socialist community than ever before. For this, the first thing tnat is necessary is political relations that are smooth and rich in content.

But, of course, great importance also lies in the practical relations between Czechoslovakia and the USSR. We have very intensive economic links with Czechoslovakia. But of course, these links could provide a greater return if we can restructure our foreign economic activity. When we speak of the need to create joint enterprises whose products would be marketed not only in our country and Czechoslovakia, but also on the markets of third countries, then what is needed is not just good intentions, but the appropriate economic mechanism. The problem of elaborating such an economic mechanism is not decided at summit level, of course. But the political framework of this process is determined precisely by summit meetings.

Of course, the problems that our friends are engaged in resolving are always of vital interest to us, because our friends' concerns are our concerns. The Czechoslovak comrades are working to implement the decisions of their congress, which outlined a broad program for the development of socialist construction; they also are now raising the question of accelerating the social and economic development of the country. In this regard it is characteristic that the latest plenum of the CPCZ Central Committee was absolutely in harmony with the conclusions and ideas that were heard at the CPSU Central Committee January Plenum.

I think that taking into account that both Czechoslovakia and the USSR are working actively in the interests of improving the situation in Europe, one can expect that the exchange of opinions between Comrades Gorbachev and Husak also will enrich our conceptions of the possibilities of those actions, those practical steps that would lead to Europe's really becoming a continent of peace, cooperation and stability. Therefore, we can expect great results from this visit.

IZVESTIYA REPORTS SEJM DELEGATION'S MOSCOW TALKS

PM311021 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 28 Mar 87 Morning Edition p 4

[TASS report: "The Warmth of Fraternal Meetings"]

[Text] A meeting with a Polish Sejm delegation headed by Marshal of the Sejm R. Malinowski was held at the USSR Supreme Soviet on 26 March. During the conversation, which was held in a cordial atmosphere, it was noted that the constantly deepening parliamentary ties and contacts between the two countries make a substantial contribution to relations of fraternity and close cooperation between the peoples of the Soviet Union and Poland.

Examples were cited during the meeting reflecting the durable political, economic, and cultural ties between the two countries.

L.N. Tolkunov and A.E. Voss, chairmen of the chambers of the USSR Supreme Soviet, told their guests about the great creative work being carried out in the Soviet Union in the process of restructuring and implementing the Communist Party's course of renewing the life of Soviet society. The significance of the CPSU Central Committee January (1987) Plenum and its decisions aimed at extensive democratization of all spheres and aspects of social life was stressed.

R. Malinowski stressed the need to strengthen and develop the relations of fraternal friendship and close cooperation between Poland and the USSR. He spoke about the progress in carrying out Poland's economic and social development plans and noted that energetic legislative activity on the part of the Sejm is playing an important role in implementing them. The guest dwelt in detail on the main areas of Sejm activity and its experience in using socialism's creative potential. We are getting ready, he said, to celebrate the 70th anniversary of the Great October Revolution, which brought the peoples freedom from national and social oppression.

Regarding topical questions of international politics, the participants in the meeting noted the fervent desire of both countries' parliamentarians to continue their efforts to deliver mankind from the nuclear threat and to strengthen international and European security. The Sejm, the Polish parliamenterian stated, has fervently supported the new Soviet initiative to eliminate medium-range missiles in Europe.

The meeting expressed a mutual desire to strengthen and develop contacts between the USSR Supreme Soviet and the Polish Sejm.

Yu.N. Balandin, T.N. Bokareva, V.G. Lomonosov, and A.A. Tupolev, USSR Supreme Soviet deputies, and W. Natorf, Polish ambassador to the Soviet Union, took part in the conversation.

The Sejm delegation visited the V.I. Lenin Mausoleum on the same day and laid a wreath.

The Sejm delegation visited the V.I. Lenin All-Union Academy of Agricultural Sciences.

MOSCOW DERIDES POLISH SECTION OF RADIO FREE EUROPE

LD291752 Moscow International Service in Polish 1300 GMT 29 Mar 87

[Text] After the embarrassing denials of the Americans on Radio Free Europe, a change in the post of the director of the Polish Section took place, in spite of everything. Zdzislaw Najder, who was sentenced to death in Poland in absentia for cooperating with foreign intelligence, has resigned. His place has been taken by Marek Latynski. It was finally understood in Washington that such detestable figure as Zdzislaw Najder at the head of the Polish service of Radio Free Europe is really not in the interests of the broadcasting station. It was, therefore, decided on the other side of the ocean to escape to something of a kind of psycho-political makeup.

The decision, as everything seems to indicate, had been maturing for a long time, and the change was prepared slowly, proof of which is, for example, that the candidate for the change has been prepared for at least 18 months. Zdzislaw Najder's deputy, Marek Latynski, was taken at that time for training to the central headquarters (as a gift?) of the Voice of America, and has only now returned to Munich, but has already taken to the post of the director of the Polish Section.

However, despite everything, these nominations can only be called a change of guard. Marek Latynski, in reality is going to continue Zdzislaw Najder's line. Both of them are only normal executors, in fact, small cogs in the very large hierarchic wheel of American propaganda. Therefore, neither Najder's line nor Latynski's line is spoken about. Whoever works in the Munich CIA broadcasting station -- Nazi criminals in the first 10 years of Radio Free Europe's existence, or aesthetizing spys or renegades at the present moment -- all of them are in the pay of people for whom American interests are "uber alles" [above all] and the cares of the Polish nation are at the most alien. Marek Latynski, revealing his cards to a certain extent, stated as follows in his program radio speech to Poland, in the auditorium. An important element of the American presence in Poland, he said, is that radio station is financed by the American taxpayers, administered and directed by American specialists. Later, carrying out, quite simply, an unusual evolution, the new director of the Polish Section of Radio Free Europe stated: It is a Polish radio station in the sense that is serves exclusively -- ought to serve -- the interests of listeners in Poland.

But what kind of service for Polish listeners can be spoken of, when one and the same administration in the United States directs simultaneously at Poland radio transmitters and missiles? Perhaps therefore, then their missiles also serve the interests of the Polish nation? No. It results from this that the broadcasting station continues to be American, not only because of its affiliation but also its aims.

PRAVDA CITES ALBANIAN PAPER ON NEW WORK STYLE

PM031454 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 3 Apr 87 First Edition p 5

[TASS report: "Article in ZERI I POPULLIT"]

[Text] Tirana, 2 Apr -- The newspaper ZERI I POPULLIT has published an editorial entitled "The New Tasks Demand New Methods of Work, More Initiative, and Revolutionary Actions." It is devoted to a conference of the party and economic aktiv of Albania's central departments and institutions, held in Tirana recently, which was addressed by R. Alia, first secretary of the AWP Central Committee and chairman of the Albanian People's Assembly Presidium.

Since the Ninth AWP Congress, the newspaper writes, the guiding and monitoring activity of party organs and organizations has been stepped up considerably and the organizational role of state and economic organs centrally and locally has increased. Leadership organs in the central departments and institutions now operate more effectively.

Today's tasks demand more than has been done; they demand, above all, new methods and a new style of work. All communists and cadres, especially cadres in departments and institutions, must go to the production units, be among the workers, peasants, and specialists, and help them and work with them to seek ways of resolving the most complex problems facing the economy, the article stresses. To ensure scope for the masses' initiative, it is necessary to renounce the erroneous practice enshrined in instructions and resolutions and to renounce the habit of making a fetish of certain orders and norms. The masses' creative initiative should be accompanied by labor actions, organization and discipline.

The strengthening of party discipline, party and state control, and control by the masses, the stepping up of worker control and its raising to a new level, and the strengthening of financial discipline are today the main tasks in the revolutionary change of work methods and style, the newspaper notes.

PARIS 'DELIBERATE PROVOCATION' AGAINST USSR SHIP

LD031132 Moscow TASS in English 1102 GMT 3 Apr 87

[Text] Moscow April 3 TASS -- The Soviet motorship Fyodor Podtelkov was the target of a deliberate provocation on April 2, a TASS correspondent was told at the Russian federation's Ministry of River Fleet.

At 15.40 on that day French naval plane No. 61 bearing the inscription "Marine" in Latin letters flew over the freighter five times at an altitude of 30 meters, thus endangering the safety of the ship's crew, while the Fyodor Podtelkov was in international waters abeam of the Port of Toulon.

The Soviet ship's Captain Aleksandr Tsemin said in his cable reporting the incident that the Fyodor Podtelkov at the moment of the provocation had been in latitude 42 degrees 43 minutes north and longitude 05 degrees 39 minutes east.

It is proceeding from the Spanish Port of Tarragona to the Soviet Black Sea Port of Poti with a load of chemicals.

WOMAN'S RELEASE DEMANDED; EXPULSIONS ANNOUNCED

'Emphatic Protest' at Arrest

LD031732 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1645 GMT 3 Apr 87

[Text] Paris, 3 Apr (TASS) -- The USSR Embassy in Paris today issued the following statement:

On 17 March, police in the city of Rouen arrested, on an unfounded accusation of spying, Soviet citizen Lyudmila Pavlovna Verdier, (nee Varigina), who came to France on 17 January 1987 on a private trip at the invitation of her husband, French citizen Pierre Verdier.

The Soviet Embassy was officially informed of the detention and arrest of this Soviet citizen only on 30 March of this year, which is in contravention of the recognized provisions of international law and of the Soviet-French consular convention. Moreover, according to a statement by L. Verdier (Varigina), after her arrest she was denied the opportunity of contacting the USSR Embassy in Paris.

Instances of a rough and inhumane attitude toward a woman who was subjected to an unbroken 12 hours of interrogation, in the course of which blackmail, threats and fabrications were permitted with the aim of breaking her will and forcing her to sign provocative confessions drawn up in advance, also command attention.

In connection with the above, the USSR Embassy in France expresses a most emphatic protest at the arrest of a USSR citizen, at the untimely conveying of this fact to the Soviet Embassy, and at the violation with regard to L. Verdier (Varigina) of elementary norms of human morals and at the gross violation of human rights. The embassy demands the immediate release of L. Verdier (Varigina) from arrest and the withdrawal of all accusations fabricated against her.

'Anti-Soviet Provocation'

LD051953 Moscow Television Service in Russian 1700 GMT 5 Apr 87

[From the "Vremya" newscast; report by Sergey Alekseyev]

[Text] [Alekseyev] The arbitrary nature of the treatment accorded by the French authorities to Lyudmila Varigina-Verdier, a Soviet citizen, is an important theme of the day you have probably been waiting for. I will not now tell this whole story all over again; you are already aware of it. Yesterday's "Vremya" carried a detailed report on it as do today's papers. Here are some new facts:

This is a fellow countrywoman of ours, Lyudmila Varigina-Verdier. She has spent more than 2 weeks without trial or investigation in a Rouen prison. All the same, journalists have finally succeeded in getting a meeting with her. Let us forgive Lyudmila her reticence, her poor French, and let us bear in mind the several days of psychological nightmare she had to endure. The main thing is that, all the same, she told journalists: I am not a spy. My husband is not a spy. My arrest is illegal. [video shows Varigina talking in French]

We received a film from Yaroslavl simultaneously with the video from distant Rouen. our correspondent has had a meeting with Lyudmila Varigina's family in Yaroslavl.

[Begin Yu. Chernyak video recording, identified by screen caption] It is from here that Lydumila departed to see her husband in Rouen; this was in January. She was expected here at the end of March. She was due to have returned to attend her examinations at the Teacher Training Institute, where she studies at the Department of Languages. However, a report which shook her mother, Marya Pavlovna, all her relatives and friends, arrived.

We arrived at Marya Pavlovna's house. She lives with the elder daughter Irina. [video shows room, three women, one in the middle is elderly. As daughter looks at the newspaper, mother is wiping away a tear]

[Marya Pavlovna] It is difficult for me to speak. I am very worried that something like that has happened: It is unexpected and unpleasant, both for me and, I think, for all Soviet people. My daughter left to see her husband; even though it was for a temporary sojourn in France with her legally-wedded husband, but an event has happened, so unexpected for her and her husband; an event carried out without forethought and illegally by the French Government.

I am confident in thinking that, all the same, all this will have a speedy end and that my daughter will be duly released from such an incommensurate violence done to her.

[Chernyak] What will you say, Irina?

[Irina] What the French authorities have permitted themselves to do with regard to my sister can only be described by one word: a provocation. I think that the French Government ought to understand that any provocation does not facilitate friendship, Russian relations between our countries [as heard]. It is necessary to put a stop to all this as speedily as possible, to set Lyudmila free and let her return to the USSR to us. [end video recording]

[Alekseyev] The present anti-Soviet provocation is clearly no coincidence in France where, incidentally, the interest in our life and our country has particularly increased, where certain tendencies towards stepping up the cooperation between France and the USSR have begun to take shape.

French Expulsions Announced

LD050532 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 0400 GMT 5 Apr 87

[Text] We have just received an announcement from the USSR Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

The French ambassador in Moscow was summoned to the USSR Foreign Ministry today, where a firm protest was made to him in connection with the provocative action toward a number of Soviet representatives in France. Without the slightest grounds they were charged with unfounded accusations, which are unsubstantiated by any evidence, of activities not in accordance with their functions and status and asked to leave the country.

The Soviet side has qualified these actions by the French authorities as a blatantly unfriendly act of a clearly expressed political slant aimed at poisoning the atmosphere of Soviet-French contacts, sowing mistrust toward the Soviet people, and hindering the growth of the French people's positive interest in the domestic and foreign policy of the Soviet Union, which has set out along the path of radically renewing its society, and demonstrating bold and innovative approaches in international affairs.

Such a step by the French authorities is in total contradiction to statements by their official representatives about striving to develop relations with the Soviet Union on a constructive basis. The responsibility for the inevitable negative repercussions of this act is borne by the French side.

The statement by the USSR Foreign Ministry notes that it has been pointed out frequently to the French side that a number of French employees in Moscow do not observe the rules of behavior for foreign representatives in the USSR and engage in activities incompatible with their status. In such circumstances, the Soviet side considers it essential to demand the departure of a number of French representatives from the Soviet Union.

The Soviet side frequently has pointed out that certain French representatives in Moscow do not observe the rules of behavior for foreign representatives in the USSR and engage in activities incompatible with their status. In connection with this, (Evou Delon), the first secretary of the French Embassy in Moscow; (Pierre Lapernat), the assistant military air attache' and (Pete Patrick Chebrou), representative of the firm (Ofemat), have been asked to leave the USSR within 8 days.

(Pierre Debrouchar), counselor at the French Embassy in the USSR; (Annette Pinas Devinkoff), attache at the embassy; and (Serge Eberlos) an employee-representatives of the French-Soviet Chamber of Commerce in Moscow, must also leave the USSR within an undetermined period.

The departure from France of (Kiselov), (Kuznetsov) and (Ingurskiy) will take place immediately after (Debrouchar), (Devinkoff) and (Eberlos) have left the Soviet Union.

The Soviet side would like to warn that a continuation of unfriendly actions against employees of Soviet establishments in France will naturally in the future, too, give rise to a commensurate response. We expect the French side to cease attempts aimed at creating an abnormal situation for the activities of Soviet representatives in France and to stop creating artificial obstacles for the development of mutually beneficial Soviet-French cooperation, which is in line with the interests of the peoples of both countries and with the broader interests of peace and security throughout the world.

We have already told you that the current unprecedented anti-Soviet campaign in France is connected with groundless accusations against a number of French citizens of spying for the Soviet Union. What is more, on 17 March, the police of the town of Rouen, on a similar accusation, detained a Soviet citizen, Lyudmila Pavlovna Verdier, nee Varigina. She is in France on a private visit at the invitation of her husband, the French citizen Pierre Verdier who is one of those accused of spying. The statement of the Soviet Embassy in Paris draws attention to cases of crude, inhuman treatment of a woman who was subjected to an uninterrupted 12-hour interrogation, during which blackmail, threats, and fabrications were made against her. Their aim was to break her will and force her to sign a previously prepared provocative confession. At the present time, after representations of a lawyer, the Soviet citizen Varigina-Verdier has been released from Rouen prison, but remains under police supervision. A pledge has been taken from her that she will not leave France.

'Press Communique' on Relations

LD051617 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1543 GMT 5 Apr 87

[Text] Paris, 5 Apr (TASS) -- The USSR Embassy in France today issued the following press communique:

The Soviet side has, on more than one occasion, drawn attention to the negative consequences which could ensue for Soviet-French relations from the campaign waged in France during recent weeks, which has a clearly expressed political flavor, pursues the aim of poisoning the atmosphere of Soviet-French contacts, and of preventing the growth of positive interest in the domestic and foreign policies of the Soviet Union. However, our voice went unheard. What is more, in making the decision to expel several Soviet representatives, the French side has assumed total responsibility for the consequences of its unfriendly act, including the adoption by the Soviet side of fully adequate measures with regard to French representatives in Moscow.

In connection with commentaries that have appeared here today, the USSR Embassy states that in its relations with France, the Soviet Union is constantly governed by the desire for their normal, broad, and mutually beneficial development.

Ariane Case 'Sowing Distrust'

LD032011 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 1500 GMT 3 Apr 87

[Report by Paris correspondent Oleg Maksimenko]

[Text] As we reported earlier, on 2 April the French side announced to the USSR Embassy in France its decision to expel three Soviet members of its staff for alleged activities incompatible with their status. Here with the details of this unfriendly action is our correspondent in Paris, Oleg Maksimenko:

[Maksimenko] There is no substance to this affair except for an obviously unfriendly move by the French Government. The story that these Soviet people have been implicated in the Ariane affair does not stand up to criticism, even at first sight. One of them has been portrayed by the local press as someone who has supposedly been at the head of a mythical spy ring since 1983; yet at that time he was not even in France. He only arrived in 1985. Moreover, the Soviet diplomat never met anyone who has been accused by the French authorities of spying for our country. Neither has he been to Normandy, where the factories engaged in developing and manufacturing the engines for the Ariane missile are situated.

There is another blatant inconsistency in this anti-Soviet affair, namely the missile itself. There have been 19 unsuccessful launchings of Ariane, and to steal its secrets would, as yet, be simply dangerous. Meanwhile, our space technology has for some time been successfully using a similar type of engine, more powerful than the one that the French are so evidently failing to introduce.

Only one form of Soviet involvement with the French space program is known: our great and comprehensive assistance to France in implementing the program. It is cooperation with the USSR that has enabled the French side to make appreciable progress in the sphere of Space exploration. Why, then, was it thought necessary now to stage an anti-Soviet display of this kind? It has been noted for some time that every time the Soviet Union enters the international arena with new peace proposals, another wave of anti-Sovietism arises in France. Now it has happened again. Another thing that evidently is giving the ruling classes of France no peace is the truly enormous attention with which the French are following reforms now taking place in our country.

The anti-Soviet campaign, and the pseudo-theft of the Ariane missile secrets, serve the purpose of sowing distrust. But this campaign clearly does not serve the interests of France.

Konorev on Media 'Slanders'

LD011956 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1803 GMT 1 Apr 87

["A Rebuke to the Slanderers" -- TASS headline]

[Text] Paris, 1 Apr (TASS) -- What feelings do I experience toward the slanderous campaign linked with my name, which a series of French mass information media have raised? Surprise, fury, protest and disgust -- simultaneously. Such was the response of Valeriy Konorev, assistant Air Force attache at the USSR Embassy in France at the interview with our TASS correspondent about the anti-Soviet publications of the bourgeois press, which has accused him of "espionage."

In these claims there is not even a hint of truth, he said. This whole story is completely and entirely fabricated. I have not seen a single one of the faces, with whom I was supposedly in contact, in my entire life. I did not even suspect their existence until the day when the newspapers, radio and television suddenly began to blare about it. Moreover, contrary to all the mendacious statements of the French press, I have not once been either to Rouen, or to Le Havre, or to Vernon, or to Normandy in general, where supposedly I was "in charge" of the intelligence network.

Attacks on my personal and family life are monstrous and disgusting, continued the 36-year-old Major Konorev. How low can you get? It is alleged that since 1983 or 1984 I have been "cohabiting" with some elderly lady, according to whose evidence there has now been "disclosed a group of spies" in the area around Rouen. Truly, people have neither shame nor conscience!

I have an excellent and fine family: my wife, who is a pediatrician, an 11-year-old daughter and an 8-year-old son. Indeed during those years I was not in France, I was peacefully serving in the Belorussian Military District. I only went to work in Paris in September 1985, which anyone can assure themselves of -- it is sufficient merely to take a take a look at an official French handbook. But the slanderers clearly do not find it worth bothering to look; they are interested not in the truth, but in something quite different. Can it be that in France freedom of the press is understood as the right irresponsibly, without any grounds for it, to throw dirt at any person? There are probably laws here too on which the slanderers can be brought to book, including being taken to court. I am thinking of taking advice on that score. Both my family and I have suffered clear moral harm.

Why is it precisely now that this hostile campaign has been unleashed and why is it precisely me who has been dragged into it? One can only guess. However, analyzing the overall situation, one can put forward certain suppositions. It is no secret that the Soviet proposals on eliminating medium-range missiles in Europe were not at all to the liking of certain circles in France. They cannot simply reject them, as they have aroused vast interest among the peace-loving public; they have nothing to counter them with, so they now are trying to distract attention from them with this fantastical spy story and, at the same time, they are trying to inspire distrust in the USSR.

But there is yet another circumstance which does not exclude the first one, V. Konorev says. The French Ariane rocket, which is the main European launcher is suffering failure after failure. Since the failure of its last launch at the end of May last year it has been stuck on the ground. Just a few days ago it was announced that for the 20th time its next launch had to be postponed because of faults. Against this background the USSR's space program is being carried out with precision, which is causing some people to be envious and fearful, because Soviet rockets could be a formidable commercial competitor. The fairy-tale is invented about the Soviet side's alleged "increased interest" in the Ariane's motors in order to belittle Soviet technology and give the French rocket extra publicity. It was pure chance that I was dragged into it. They could have chosen anyone, but apparently they considered that in the eyes of the broad public it was more plausible to ascribe this role to someone connected with aircraft.

[signed] Yuriy Lopatin

FRG'S SCHMIDT IN MOSCOW FOR PEACE COMMITTEE

Talks With Gromyko

PM310957 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 29 Mar 87 First Edition p 1

[TASS report: "A.A. Gromyko Meets With Helmut Schmidt"]

[Text] In the Kremlin on 27 March, A.A. Gromyko, member of the CPSU Central Committee Politburo and chairman of the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium, received Helmut Schmidt, the eminent West German public figure and former FRG federal chancellor, and had a talk with him held in a frank and friendly atmosphere. H. Schmidt is in Moscw to participate in a Soviet-West German public meeting organized by the Soviet Committee for the Defense of Peace and the Bergendorf discussion club in the FRG.

During the talk certain questions of bilateral relations between the USSR and the FRG were discussed, as were a number of problems of the current international situation.

A.A. Gromyko stressed that we will not resolve the question of lasting peace until we find a way to eliminate nuclear weapons and as long as mankind, figuratively speaking, is sitting on a nuclear powder keg.

"We know," he noted, "that science has helped us to recognize what the nuclear monster is. If it exploded on our planet it could engulf it. So why does a country like the FRG continue to underestimate the terrible danger for Europe, over which a nuclear sword hangs? The Soviet Union is convinced that everything possible must be done to ensure that this sword does not fall on mankind."

H. Schmidt noted that FRG citizens agree with these words and added that if the United States had adopted the Soviet proposal for a moratorium on nuclear tests, the world would now look considerably different. A.A. Gromyko talked about the changes taking place in the USSR's domestic life, which reflect the desire of the Communist Party and the Soviet people to fully use socialism's potential. Fundamental restructuring is necessary to improve leadership of all aspects of our life. Soviet domestic policy also accords with foreign policy tasks, and, on the whole, as M.S. Gorbachev, general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, has stressed repeatedly, our domestic and foreign policy are solidly and inextricably bound together.

Kohl Advisor: Ties Will Develop

LD272325 Hamburg DPA in German 2246 GMT 27 Mar 87

[Text] Moscow (DPA) -- Today A.A. Gromyko received former Federal Chancellor Helmut Schmidt in the Kremlin. The Soviet news agency TASS reported that the talk took place in an open and friendly atmosphere. Schmidt is in Moscow to attend the 10th German-Soviet round of discussions as part of the so-called Bergedorfer discussion club. According to TASS, Gromyko said during his talk with Schmidt that the question of a lasting peace could not be solved until a way for eliminating nuclear weapons was found.

Horst Teltschik, foreign affairs adviser to Chancellor Kohl, who is also attending the round of discussions, said that the most important result of this German-Soviet discussion by politicians is "that the traffic light is again showing green, which means that relations between the FRG and the Soviet Union will be developing." This was stated by Teltschik in an interview with the ZDF program HEUTE JOURNAL.

One important interlocutor told him that 1987 would be the year for intensifying German-Soviet relations. "That is a very good signal," Chancellor Helmut Kohl's advisor said. Initial arrangements have been made between the Federal Government and the Soviet leadership which now have to be implemented so that relations would be on a solid base.

Valentin Falin, head of the Soviet press agency NOVOSTI, underlined in the interview with HEUTE JOURNAL: "We really do want peace for our people, for our country, for our friends. And we want nothing else for you, the Federal Republic, and its friends." Not only have weapons become superfluous, but they entail damage, and not merely damage of a physical kind, but a very great political damage. "Therefore, we do not need them and we wish to get rid of them," Falin said.

Dobrynin, Bahr Discuss Ties

LD282142 Moscow TASS in English 1534 GMT 28 Mar 87

[Text] Moscow March 28 TASS -- Anatoliy Dobrynin, secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, has received Egon Bahr, member of the Presidium of the Social Democratic Party of Germany.

Views were exchanged on some international issues, questions pertaining to Soviet-West German relations and contacts between the CPSU and the SPD.

Today Anatoliy Dobrynin has received Horst Teltschik, head of the Foreign Policy Department of the Office of the FRG Federal Chancellor, at the latter's request.

They discussed matters of mutual interest.

The meetings were attended by Vadim Zagladin, member of the CPSU Central Committee, first deputy head of the International Department of the CPSU Central Committee.

Zagladin, FRG's Ruehe Meet

LD271855 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1240 GMT 27 Mar 87

[Text] Moscow, 27 Mar (TASS) -- What can be done to improve bilateral Soviet-West German relations and the international climate in general? This question is at the center of attention for the participants of the 81st meeting of the Bergedorf discussion club, which began here today.

This organization, founded in 1961 on the initiative and through the financial means of West German industrialist Doctor Kurt Kerber, has as one of its aims the improvement in forms of cooperation between different social systems. This time a delegation, which includes prominent state and political leaders, scientists, and publicists, has arrived in Moscow for the 10th meeting with representatives of the Soviet public.

"Let us admit that we have more in common then we have differences. The world today has become one whole. We can either lose something, each in his own way, or gain everything, together" -- these words, from a speech by Kurt Kerber, characterize the atmosphere which reigns at the club's meeting.

In his speech today, Volker Ruehe, deputy chairman of the Christian Democratic Union Bundestag section, underlined the interest of official Bonn in developing mutually profitable, bilateral relations with the Soviet Union. The parliamentarian spoke in favor of developing all-around contacts in different areas. In this regard, the West German political statesman pointed out that he is speaking in favor of "a longlasting detente" [soperezhivayemuyu razryadku], for a detente the fruit of which will be felt by every man in everyday life.

Ruehe paid particular attention to the development of economic cooperation. He said a lot of interest in West Germany is being generated by the process of restructuring and reforms taking place in the Soviet Union. We in the FRG are ready for new forms of economic cooperation, the speaker added. In part, we are talking about joint enterprises.

Vadim Zagladin, first deputy chief of the CPSU Central Committee International Department, when speaking about the current period, singled out a possibility "to start moving out of the prolonged and unpleasant period of confrontation."

Speaking about official Bonn's policy, Vadim Zagladin stressed: "We understand the FRG's striving to bring its political weight in the international arena into line with its truly enormous possibilities and potential. This is just; I think, however, that in general the stronger prospects for peace are -- the more peaceful, calm, and good-neighborly the atmosphere is -- the more successfully such a problem will be resolved."

We can see that the West German side is trying to get the matter moving, he added. Vadim Zagladin expressed hope that mutual aspirations in this direction will obtain the necessary results; then a prospect for relations to attain a new and higher level will arise; naturally, efforts on both sides are required for that. "We are prepared to make those efforts," the first deputy chairman of the International Department of the CPSU Central Committee stressed.

Schmidt Interview on Trip

LD282232 Moscow Radio Peace and Progress in German 2030 GMT 27 Mar 87

[Interview with former FRG Chancellor Helmut Schmidt by correspondent Andrey Nikolayev -- in Moscow; live or recorded]

[Text] [Nikolayev] My first question. You have come here to our country to take part in this meeting [with the Soviet Peace Committee]. What hopes and plans do you have?

[Schmidt] I have no hopes and no plans. I am too old for plans, and I am no longer a politician. I am also a little old for hopes. I am someone who has tried all his life to take one step at a time, to link one small step toward progress to another. I have always believed that the West Europeans need to conduct a dialogue with the Soviet Union, and that the Soviet Union needs to conduct a dialogue with the West Europeans; because only when one speaks to another, and particularly when one listens to another, can one understand the other. My participation in these talks must be understood as being a very small contribution on my part to us talking and listening to one another. It is very modest plan and a very modest wish.

[Nikolayev] Mr Schmidt, my second and final question: What prospects to the relations between the USSR and the FRG have? What new impetus have they recently received?

[Schmidt] I believe that in contrast to his immediate predecessor in office, General Secretary Gorbachev takes a fresh approach to many world questions, and that German-Soviet relations will profit from this. Of course, at the moment the urgent need for agreed arms limitation is at the forefront of things. Over and above this, we in West Europe -- and we as Germans -- are extraordinarily interested in seeing whether Gorbachev's reform intentions can be realized. We are now seeing them most readily realized in the field of journalism and in the press; we are seeing the least reform in the economy. I am interested mostly in the latter, because I think that only when the Soviet leadership succeeds in tangibly raising the living standard of the 290 million inhabitants of the Soviet Union can relations between the states improve. So long as there are enormous economic differences, mistrust will be increased, mistrust which the strategists in any case exacerbate.

Dialogue on Peace, Ties Ends

LD281708 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1235 GMT 28 Mar 87

[Excerpt] Moscow, 28 March (TASS) -- A Soviet-West German meeting of political and social figures and representatives of science and business circles organized by the Soviet Committee for the Defense of Peace [SCDP] and the Bergedorf discussion club (FRG) ended here today. For 2 days there has been a frank [otkrovennyy] and businesslike conversation on the outlook for the development of the international situation, on what needs to be done to make the world peaceful and to successfully develop economic, scientific, technical, and cultural cooperation between the countries.

In our very dangerous and very complex world, any dialogue is useful, said the writer Genrikh Borovik, chairman of the SCDP. After all, silence and absence of dialogue always leads to breakdown in communication and to greater danger.

As we see it, the present meeting is filled with special meaning inasmuch as it is taking place not only at a critically dangerous time, but at one which also gives grounds for hope. It would be said if a meeting of this type where people exchange arguments resembled a tennis match at which the opponents respectfully exchange strikes with one another and then separate each with his own opinion and his own skill. There is only one conclusion after such a meeting: If my partner hits it firmly from the right, I must hit it firmly from the left, or vice versa.

This is not the point of this meeting; it is not to sharpen arguments. Its aim is to understand one another's positions and to find the means for rapprochement. It is necessary to think in a new way; and for this, one must be able to understand and to listen to each other. I hope that the Moscow meeting is one of the stages on the way to this, said Genrikh Borovik. [passage omitted]

IZVESTIYA ON ENVIRONMENT TALKS WITH FRG

PM241213 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 24 Mar 87 Morning Edition p 4

[TASS report: "Experts in Session"]

[Text] Bonn, 23 Mar -- Groups of FRG and Soviet experts started talks here today on the question of preparing an intergovernmental agreement on cooperation in the sphere of environmental protection. The Soviet delegation is headed by V.G. Sokolovskiy, deputy chairman of the USSR State Committee for Hydrometeorology and Environmental Control.

The same day the USSR delegation met with FRG Environment Minister Walter Wallmann.

The Soviet-West German talks will continue until 27 March.

Draft Document

LD281605 Moscow TASS in English 1320 GMT 28 Mar 87

[Text] Bonn March 28 TASS -- Talks between teams of West German and Soviet experts to draft an intergovernmental agreement on cooperation in environmental protection closed here on Friday. The delegations reached agreement on the draft document, which will now be submitted to the governments of the two countries.

The Soviet delegation to the talks visited a number of chemical and metallurgical plants and a waste reprocessing plant to familiarize themselves with environmental protection measures.

PRAVDA CITES NEUES DEUTSCHLAND ON KOHL STATEMENT

PM251327 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 25 Mar 87 First Edition p 4

[TASS report: "Article in NEUES DEUTSCHLAND"]

[Text] Berlin, 24 Mar -- Important questions continue to be left unexplained -- that is the assessment which NEUES DEUTSCHLAND gives of the government statement delivered by FRG Federal Chancellor H. Kohl last week to the new Bundestag.

The statements -- obtained after protracted talks within the framework of the Christian Democratic Union/Christian Social Union and Free Democratic Party coalition -- are highly contradictory in the field of both domestic and foreign policy, the commentary says. Although the government statement does introduce some new emphases in questions concerning the problems of disarmament and relations between the USSR and the GDR, at the same time many outdated views are dragged out of the same old box. Thus, in the area of foreign policy, priority is given to the intention to reach an agreement again with the FRG's eastern neighbors but, at the same time, obvious attempts are made to discredit those with whom they want to cooperate.

He emphasized that in the FRG's foreign policy, top political priority goes to strengthening NATO and consolidating the alliance with the United States. Resorting to assertions about the continuing "Soviet threat," Kohl stated his adherence to the "strategy of deterrence" and "forward-based defense," expressed himself in favor of "the presence of strong U.S. troops" in the FRG, and, at the same time, demanded that, considering the FRG's weight in NATO, "the Bundeswehr's high operational significance be ensured."

The lack of uniformity in the coalition's policy pertaining to relations between the FRG and the GDR is striking. Alongside positive intentions to develop relations, there are well-known revanchist postulates which, no matter how many times they are repeated, have no future. Openly interfering in the affairs of other socialist states, Kohl lays claim to "the right to represent the interests of all Germans who still live in the countries of Central and Eastern Europe and in the south of the continent." As for West Berlin, contradicting the quadripartite agreement, Kohl presses for the need to preserve and strengthen its "ties with the Federal Republic [federatsiya]."

The government statement leaves more questions than answers. It is to be hoped, NEUES DEUTSCHLAND emphasizes, that in its foreign policy the Federal Government will embark on a path in keeping with the peoples' interests and demands.

SOVIET DELEGATION TO ATTEND 20 APR PNC MEETING

LD031746 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1507 GMT 3 Apr 87

[Text] Algiers, 3 Apr (KUNA) -- Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine [DFLP] Secretary General Nayif Hawatimah conferred here today with the Soviet ambassador to Algeria on the arrangements being made for the Palestine National Council [PNC] meeting on 20 April.

A statement issued here by the DFLP added: -- "Mr Hawatimah has invited the Soviet Union to attend the PNC session. The Soviet ambassador has affirmed that Moscow will send a high-level delegation and that his country backs any initiative to revive Arab solidarity." It should be remembered that Moscow sponsored a national unity agreement between the Democratic Alliance and the Fatah movement, and voiced its support for Algeria's initiative to restore PLO unity.

PALESTINIAN DELEGATION IN MOSCOW FOR TALKS

JN041247 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1200 GMT 4 Apr 87

[Text] Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine [DFLP] Secretary General Nayif Hawatimah met in Algiers today with Mohamed Cherif Messaadia, member of the FLN Permanent Secretariat. They discussed efforts to restore PLO unity and current consultations to convene the forthcoming Palestine National Council [PNC] session on 20 April.

Efforts to bring about Palestinian reconciliation will be the center of talks which a high-ranking Palestinian delegation will hold in Moscow today and tomorrow. The Palestinian delegation which arrived in Moscow today comprises Yasir 'Abd Rabbuh of the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine [DFLP]; Mahmud 'Abbas, alias Abu Mazin, representing Fatah; and Sulayman al-Najjab, representing the Palestinian Communist Party.

ALGERIAN INTERIOR MINISTER VISITS UZBEKISTAN

LD032249 Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 1830 GMT 3 Apr 87

[Text] Brother M'hamed Hadj Yala, member of the Political Bureau, and minister of interior and localities, has returned to Moscow today after a visit to the Soviet Republic of Moscow today after a visit to the Soviet Republic of Uzbekistan in Central Asia which lasted 2 days, during which he acquainted himself with different aspects of economic and social development in this republic, and with historical sites in the two cities of Samarkand and Tashkent.

The brother minister arrived in Moscow last Monday on an official visit to the Soviet Union at the invitation of his Soviet counterpart Aleksandr Vlasov. The visit of brother Yala to the Soviet Union is scheduled to end tomorrow.

GENERAL IVANOVSKIY DEPARTS MOSCOW FOR PDRY VISIT

Moscow Departure, Aden Arrival

PM061039 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 3 Apr 87 First Edition p 3

[Unattributed report and TASS report under the general heading: "On a Visit to the People's Democratic Republic of Yemen"]

[Text] Army General Ye.F. Ivanovskiy, commander in chief of Ground Forces and USSR deputy defense minister, left Moscow 1 April on an official visit to Aden.

Army General Ye.F. Ivanovskiy was seen off at the airport by Fleet Admiral V.N. Chernavin, commander in chief of the Navy and USSR deputy defense minister.

The send-off party included A.A. al-Ilah, ambassador of the People's Democratic Republic of Yemen [PDRY] to the USSR.

Aden, 2 Apr (TASS) -- A Soviet military delegation headed by Army General Ye.F. Ivanovskiy, commander in chief of Ground Forces and USSR deputy defense minister, has arrived in the PDRY on an official visit.

The delegation was met at the airport by Colonel H.Q. Tahir, member of the Yemeni Socialist Party Central Committee, chief of the Armed Forces General Staff, and PDRY first deputy defense minister, and by other military leaders of the Republic.

The welcoming party included A.I. Rachkov, USSR ambassador to the PDRY.

PDRY'S AL-BID ON PARTY CONGRESS, PROPOSAL

LD021852 Moscow International Service in Arabic 1430 GMT 1 Apr 87

[Interview in Aden with 'Ali Salim al-Bid, secretary general of the Yemeni Socialist Party Central Committee, by Aleksandr Morashkin, Radio Moscow and Soviet television correspondent assigned to Aden, and Vladimir Bilyakov, PRAVDA correspondent; date not given -- recorded]

[Text] [Question] Your Excellency the Secretary General, it is known that it has been decided to convene the party's general congress in the People's Democratic Republic of Yemen [PDRY] next June. Could you tell us the esential issues which will be discussed at the forthcoming congress?

[Al-Bid] I can say that the party's conference aims to put an end to all the problems, the nonsense, the zigzags faced by the revolution during the last period. These problems should be overcome. The second thing is that this conference [words indistinct]. We will follow the revolutionary socialist path toward the consolidation of our national security, toward [word indistinct] work, general ownership, the diversification of public ownership and cooperatives for our people, to improve the living standard of the toiling people, to establish duties as a result of the revolution [words indistinct]

The conference now has before it a document; this document is being formulated at the moment and it is in its final stage. It will be submitted to the Central Committee during its ordinary session in April, then it will be submitted to the party and to the masses. We will exert our efforts in order to achieve positive results which will meet our aspirations and [words indistinct], to get rid of some official and bureaucratic (?hurdles) and some backward diseases -- some inherited diseases in society -- and to work for the sake of the toiling people [words indistinct]. I would also like to say that through the conference we will consolidate the path of the socialist party, the path of the masses; we will pursue no other path. We work with the masses, for the masses, and through them. [words indistinct].

[Question] How do you evaluate the struggle of the Soviet people for the sake of general peace, and particularly what do you have to say about the new peace initiative proposed by Mikhail Gorbachev, general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee?

[Al-Bid] We are saying to the Soviet comrades that they should continue their peaceful offensive. This latest offensive of Gorbachev and the Soviet leadership, concerning the elimination of medium-range missiles is also considered as a positive step, and we obviously support it. It is within this spirit -- the spirit of the continued peaceful offensive by the Soviet Union -- that daily arouses worldwide interest and in all mankind, because all people, even if they differ in their tendencies, like peace and life, do not want destruction. We believe that this is the correct way and that this initiative is a correct one. We support it, and it is supported by the Arabs and by all peoples.

We believe that the Soviet leadership is pursuing an active role in international policy these days. They are following a dynamic external policy which has now become clear and tangible. They also have a good initiative vis-a-vis our situation in the Middle East; we are part of it, we are affected by the Middle East, therefore we are following your steps. We hve a common aim toward what is happening in the Middle East, including as an example the proposal of the Soviet Union for an international conference. We go along with this and we agree with exerting intensive efforts [words indistinct] and with all efforts which are aimed at securing a minimum level of Arab solidarity. We should think about finding or preparing the way for an agreement on a minimum level of Arab solidarity and for uniting the Arab ranks in confronting the imperialist and Zionist onslaught in the Middle East and the Arab region. Our endeavors with our comrades in the socialist countries and also with the Arabs should be intensified in order to pursue this path.

The Middle East [words indistinct] what is nowadays happening in Lebanon, what is happening in the Gulf war, [words indistinct] we are following these issues with great interest [words indistinct]. The Soviet initiative is correct and excellent, and it should continue. We are with you. This in fact serves our hopes and ambitions. There should be an active and dynamic initiative [words indistinct], even concerning our situation, we are now trying [words indistinct] despite the problems of 13 January, to exert efforts in order to normalize the situation in the region around us [words indistinct].

[Question] Please, Your Excellency the Secretary General, could you talk to us about the way in which it has been decided in the PDRY to celebrate 22 of April, the 117th anniversary of Vladimir Lenin, leader of the international proletariat?

[Al-Bid] This anniversary has a special place in our hearts in our capacity as progressive nationals. We all know the meaning of Lenin's life.

We are celebrating this anniversary which this year marks the 70th anniversary of the Great October Socialist Revolution, [words indistinct] and Lenin's role in this great victory. Man's dream had a known role; Lenin's party is still continuing, up to now, the establishing and developing of socialism, and the ensuing phase. In our festivities, we are proud of what Vladimir Lenin gave to humanity, to the peoples of the Soviet Union, and to the world's strugglers. Our festivities will undoubtedly be pleasant and arrangements are being made for this occasion.

VOLKOGONOV MAKES OFFICIAL VISIT TO PDRY

For reportage on a visit to the People's Democratic Republic of Yemen by Colonel General Volkogonov, deputy director of the Main Political Directorate of the Soviet Army and Navy, see the Arabian Peninsula section of the 3 April Middle East & Africa DAILY REPORT and subsequent issues.

IRAQ'S 'AZIZ SEES U.S. FUELING GULF TENSION

PM061041 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 3 Apr 87 Morning Edition p 4

[TASS report: "Stoking Tension"]

[Text] Baghdad, 2 Apr -- Iraqi Foreign Minister Tariq 'Aziz has accused Washington and its allies of whipping up the situation surrounding the "missile crisis" in the Straits of Hormuz.

In an interview with AL-THAWRAH, he stressed that the United States is trying to exploit Iran's siting of missiles at the entrance to the Persian Gulf in order to step up its infiltration of the region. Currently, T. 'Aziz stressed, the United States is playing the Iran political card. With a view to establishing its hegemony over the Persian Gulf Washington is artificially whipping up the so-called "Iranian threat." Scaring the Persian Gulf states with it, Washington is working things round to a point where those countries will hand over their security to America, he pointed out.

We must realize, T. 'Aziz said in conclusion, that we are encountering plans aimed at maintaining the "Iranian threat" as an active factor. On the pretext of countering this threat the Americans are striving to step up their infiltration of the Persian Gulf. The Arab countries should wreck these plans, the minister stressed.

IZVESTIYA CITES VOSKANYAN MEETINGS IN PERU

PM060821 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 2 Apr 87 Morning Edition p 5

[TASS report: "Visit to Peru"]

[Text] Lima, 1 Apr -- The USSR Supreme Soviet delegation headed by G.M. Voskanyan, deputy chairman of the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium, which is on an official friendly visit here at the invitation of the Peruvian Congress, has met with Senate President Armando Villanueva and Chamber of Deputies President Fernando Leon de Vivero.

During the conversation A. Villanueva declared that the arrival of a Soviet delegation in Peru testifies to the successful development of friendly and fruitful ties between the two countries' parliaments. Full coincidence of views exists between Peru and the Soviet Union, he noted, on the most important problems of our time, and primarily the need to struggle for peace, the prevention of a nuclear catastrophe, and the curbing of the arms race. Peru has a high opinion of the peace-loving policy of the Soviet Union, which has demonstrated the viability and promising nature of this policy through its unilateral moratorium on nuclear explosions, and the USSR's tireless efforts aimed at terminating the nuclear and conventional arms race.

We are in solidarity with the Soviet Union's policy aimed at upholding the rights of the peoples to self-determination and to decide their fate without outside interference, and also at establishing a new and just international economic order, A. Villanueva declared. International imperialism strives to bring dissension to relations between Latin American states. Our task is to act jointly in defense of our own interests. An example of such efforts is provided by the support for the struggle waged by Nicaragua's people for freedom and self-determination and against foreign interference. The governments and peoples of Latin America have taken a principled stance of counteracting imperialism's interventionist plans against Nicaragua. Peru is also firmly against any foreign interference in its own internal affairs. Chamber of Deputies President Fernando L. de Vivero expressed confidence that the just cause of the USSR, which is fighting for mankind's salvation, will triumph. In the course of the delegation's meeting with the leadership of the Congressional Foreign Affairs Commission its Chairman Luis Alberto Sanchez, the country's first vice president, declared the coincidence of Peruvian and Soviet viewpoints on a number of most important international problems.

On behalf of the USSR Supreme Soviet, the head of the Soviet delegation conveyed an official invitation to a Peruvian parliamentary delegation to visit the Soviet Union at a convenient time. The invitation was gratefully accepted.

The USSR Supreme Soviet delegation was received by President Alan Garcia. The head of state positively appraised the Soviet Union's purposeful struggle for peace and the easing of international tension, and noted the personal contribution of M.S. Gorbachev, general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee. Peru, he declared, supports the USSR's efforts aimed at nuclear disarmament and its peace initiatives.

A. Garcia noted that he is carefully following the process of restructuring in the Soviet Union and the deepening of socialist democracy. He spoke in favor of the further development of Peruvian-Soviet relations and deepening of political, trade, economic, and cultural cooperation to the benefit of the peoples of both countries.

Peru advocates disarmament and restructuring of the international economic order on a fair basis. Our country, the president said, has decided to repay external debts at rates not exceeding 10 percent of export revenues. A number of other countries have taken a similar stand. The external debt problem unites the developing countries in the struggle for their interests and against the policy of imperialism, A. Gracia stressed.

The head of the delegation of Soviet parliamentarians handed President Garcia a message from the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium.

The Soviet parliamentary delegation also had a meeting with Prime Minister and Minister of Economy and Finance Luis Alva Castro. Questions of the further development of Soviet-Peruvian trade and economic cooperaton, including a barter [bezvalyutnaya] basis, were touched upon in the course of the conversation. Mutual desire was expressed to seek new forms of cooperation.

Problems of the contemporary international situation were discussed at a meeting with Foreign Minister Allan Wagner. A. Wagner spoke highly of the USSR's proposal on the elimination of medium-range missiles in Europe. He expressed regret that the United States did not join the USSR's unilateral moratorium on all nuclear explosions and condemned the United States for continuing the arms race.

The delegation also met with members of the Peruvian Communist Party Central Committee Political Commission and activists of the Peruvian-Soviet Association for Cultural Ties and laid a wreath at the monument to Peru's national heroes.

The presidents of the Senate and Chamber of Deputies of the Peruvian Congress gave a reception in honor of the Soviet delegation.

BRIEFS

TASS, BRAZIL MEDIA COOPERATION -- Rio De Janeiro, 4 Apr (TASS) -- The signing of an agreement on cooperation between TASS and JORNAL DO BRASIL, one of Brazil's leading newspapers, took place in Rio de Janeior on Thursday. Under this agreement TASS will make available to this Brazilian paper its information about events taking place in the USSR and throughout the world. Brazil's mass media are showing an interest in obtaining TASS reports. Of late agreements on cooperation were signed with the O GLOBO and CORREIO BRASILIENSE newspapers, and also with Brazil's EBN news agency. [Text] [Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 0621 GMT 4 Apr 87 LD]

MEXICO COOPERATION AGREEMENT -- Havana April 3 TASS -- The mixed commission for cooperation between the Council For Mutual Economic Assistance and Mexico ended its sixth meeting here on Thursday with the conclusion of a cooperation treaty. The agreement provides for greater goods turnover and broader ties in industry, agriculture and fisheries and in the scientific and technological sphere. The meeting also approved a plan of activities for the next two years within the framework of the agreement. [Text] [Moscow TASS in English 0416 GMT 3 Apr 87 LD]

SCIENTISTS CONSTRUCTING NATIONAL 'SETTLEMENT' PLAN

LD031539 Moscow TASS in English 1352 GMT 3 Apr 87

[Text] Leningrad April 3 TASS -- A national plan for the settlement of the USSR to the year 2000 is now being drawn up on the basis of recommendations worked out by Soviet scientists. It is designed to reduce considerably the "demographic pressure" on major cities and to boost the development of smaller communities. It will be necessary for this purpose to improve urban services, both communal and cultural, in smaller cities and townships, or the plan will not work: No one is going to force people to move to small urban communities which offer advantages typical of the countryside.

The plan drawn up by scientists has been tested in Lithuania, a Soviet Baltic republic, and Vilnius, its capital, has been "relieved" of a part of its population through the priority development of rural communities.

"The process of urbanisation is global but it can and must be influenced," Leningrad University Professor Oleg Litovka, a leading specialist on economic geography, says. "This is what we are going to do in the USSR. In 1926, a mere 18 percent of the country's population lived in cities, while the figure in the 1980's is about 70 percent."

Professor Litovka has estimated that the Soviet urban communities have a territory of 95,000 square kilometres, 50-100 percent more than is needed for the normal functioning of cities. Moreover, cities often "occupy" the more valuable arable land. Large cities are growing especially fast and the concept of a national settlement plan will help resolve that problem as well.

FRG FINDS USSR FOOD SAMPLES RADIOACTIVE

LD031729 Hamburg DPA in German 1047 GMT 3 Apr 87

[Text] Moscow, (DPA) -- Samples of food taken from Soviet shops and from Moscow markets have proven to be seven times more radioactive than allowed for cesium 134 and 137 by the Food and Agriculture Organization. [FAO] Laboratory tests on food sent to Bonn by the FRG Embassy in Moscow showed 2,600 bequerelles of cesium 134 and 8,300 bequerelles of cesium 137 per kilogram in tea from the Soviet Republic of Azerbaijan. Hazelnuts from the Ukraine had 1,600 bequerelles of cesium 134 and 4,500 bequerelles of cesium 137 per kilogram. The highest readings recommended by the FAO are 350 bequerelles per kilograms for cesium 134 and 500 bequerelles for cesium 137. The samples were taken from food purchased in February. The results have now been published by the German Embassy in Moscow for FRG citizens living in the Soviet Union. The embassy will continue to send food samples to Bonn for analysis. There are no Soviet warnings at all about possible contamination of food.

CHERNOBYL ZONE RADIATION MONITORING 'INTENSIFIED'

LD021823 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 1230 GMT 2 Apr 87

[Text] On the eve of the spring floods, radiation monitoring in the Chernobyl nuclear power station zone as well as at the sources of rivers running through the zone have been intensified.

The "Sneg" program has been completed, in the course of which many thousands of samples were tested which proved the absence of any sort of anomaly in the blanket of snow. Samples of ice and river water are now being checked as well as puddles formed from melted snow.

The Ukrainian center for monitoring radiation in the environment reports the flood prognosis is favorable and gives no cause for alarm.

ZAYKOV ADDRESSES CENTRAL COMMITTEE ON PARTY TRAINING

LD031653 Moscow TASS in English 1633 GMT 3 Apr 87

[Text] Moscow April 3 TASS -- The restructuring of work to train and retrain party, government and ideological personnel is a component part of the process of restructuring Soviet society. This is a part of the whole and all the specificities of the current transformations in the country apply to it. This was stated by member of the Political Bureau of the CPSU Central Committee, secretary of the Central Committee Lev Zaykov. He addressed today a conference at the CPSU Central Committee that discussed questions of training and retraining such personnel in the light of the decisions of the 27th CPSU Congress and the January 1987 plenary meeting of the CPSU Central Committee.

The January plenary meeting of the Central Committee, it was noted at the conference, has drawn the necessary lessons from the past, from the mistakes in work with personnel and distortions in personal policy. One of them is that there should be no underestimation of the political and theoretical training of personnel and their ideological and moral standards. But such tendencies had been growing and as a result there had formed a certain line of scaling down higher party and political education.

The main task, it was stated by speakers at the conference, is to turn party institutions of higher education into one of the main channels for forming the reserve of personnel for all echelons of the party apparatus.

In the course of ten-fifteen years it is intended to create conditions for most party functionaries, starting with salaried secretaries of party organisations, to get a higher party and political education, and drastically to expand the scope of activity of the party's establishments of higher education.

The enrollment will increasingly consist of young party functionaries, especially instructors of city and district party committees and salaried secretaries of party organisations.

It was stressed at the conference that openness, electivity, control from below, competence certification and other democratic forms and methods should be spread to education, to everything that deals with the training of personnel.

The Central Committee favourably reacts to requests from party functionaries to be sent to responsible posts by way of promotion from other regions. The party establishments of higher education are beginning to work in this direction as well. Enrollment on an inter-regional basis has been sharply increased. This will serve the solution of the international tasks in personnel policy and accords with progressive tendencies in the formation of the reserve for promotion.

The social process of restructuring has generated a situation in which many questions simply can no longer be studied from the old positions. This requires a certain reassessment of values, a theoretical and methodological elaboration of whole directions of instruction. A number of fundamental ideas were expressed in the report and in the speeches by the rectors of party establishments of higher education and heads of chairs.

This concerns first of all the need to observe the principle of unity when studying the component parts of the theory of Marxism-Leninism and the CPSU's historical experience. This principle has been tested by time and the practice of socialist construction and has passed this test. A systematic study of the theory of Marxisn-Leninism in combination with a profound elucidation of new problems should serve as the basis on which to further raise the standard of the theoretical training of personnel.

It is important, it was noted at the conference, to ensure the mastering first of all of the wealth of the new appraisals in the struggle for peace and disarmament, in the alignment of the main political forces of our time and their role in the social process, the specialities of ideological struggle between the two social systems.

The participants in the conference agreed that the entire system of training and retraining personnel should become an effective instrument of the party in educating leading party workers of a new type capable of conducting the process of restructuring with success and achieving tangible results in accelerating the country's social and economic development.

TRUD INTERVIEWS NEW HEALTH MINISTER CHAZOV ON REFORMS

PM311251 Moscow TRUD in Russian 24 Mar 87 pp 1, 4

[Interview with USSR Academy of Sciences Academician Ye.I. Chazov, USSR minister of health, by TRUD correspondent V. Belitskiy under the rubric "Topical Subject": "What Should Medicine Be Like. In the USSR Ministry of Health Steps Are Being Taken To Fundamentally Improve the Sector's Work" -- date and place not given; first paragraph is TRUD introduction]

[Text] Shortcomings and unsolved problems have accumulated over many years in one of the most important social spheres -- public health. Unfortunately, neither the numerous complaints nor critical press articles helped revise the state of affairs in this sector. Now its leadership has been entrusted to USSR Academy of Sciences Academician Ye.I. Chazov, the famous cardiologist. A few days ago a session of the ministry's collegium was held at which the state of the Soviet health service and the tasks for its restructuring in the light of the decisions of the 27th party congress and the CPSU Central Committee January (1987) Plenum were discussed. After the session the minister gave an interview to TRUD correspondent V. Belitskiy.

[Belitskiy] Yevgeniy Ivanovich, what is your answer to readers' questions about the reasons for the unsatisfactory situation which has arisen in the sector?

[Chazov] They lie in the same negative tendencies that until recently were typical of society as a whole: the extensive path of development based on quantity rather than quality, conservative managemet methods precluding local independence, personnel's sluggishness, and a lack of democracy.... These causes were openly mentioned in the April (1985) and January (1987) Plenums and at the 27th CPSU Congress.

For example, the pursuit of an increase in the number of hospital beds led to a situation where our country now has more of them than anywhere else, but the level of technical and technological equipment is very low. That is, we have spent money on bricks and concrete, and not on treating patients properly and quickly. By way of comparison: The cost of medical equipment for our projects is about 15 percent as against 40 percent for projects in our socialist neighbor's hospitals. In the passion for building new hospitals, the reconstruction of old ones was sometimes neglected and a significant proportion of them fell out of commission. Yet the reports constantly claim that the hospital network is fully developed on a modern basis in our country...

A quantitative indicator was also employed for planning the work of the dispensary and polyclinic network -- here the number of visits is the main factor. That is, the more often people visit the doctor, the better he is working, or so it is believed. But the orientation toward quantity instead of quality leads to misplaced goals: The drawing up of papers and reports is the point of activity, rather than ensuring people's health. That is why, in my opinion, there is now less humanism and responsibility in medicine. Sad to say, it must be admitted that doctors' professional and spiritual standards have declined markedly. Moreover, the problems start right from admission to VUZ's and the training process. Recently, for example, an expert evaluation was made of the training of young specialists who had graduated from Moscow VUZ's: One-fourth of them were graded three or even lower [on Soviet five-point scale].

That's the last straw, so to speak.

[Belitskiy] Problems of this kind have traditionally been concealed. The necessary and essentially humane concept of medical confidentiality, the idea of which is not to traumatize the patient's state of mind by disclosing the gravity of his condition, has somehow spread unnoticed to the activity of the entire health service. An accusation is commonly leveled against the press, which has written a great deal about the shortcomings in medicine: With such items you are undermining the doctor's prestige and thereby harming the patient -- after all, it has long been known the patient's trust is an essential element in treatment. In other words, a kind of theoretical basis was formulated to justify the sector's closed nature. Apparently a bad doctor will magically turn into a good one if he is not criticized...

[Chazov] There is obviously not enough openess in discussing problems of the health service. Without it it is impossible to remove the shortcomings. Criticism in the press is not the personal concern of journalists, nor the whim of editorial offices. It is the expression of society's attitude toward us so we have only ourselves to blame. By the way, we are to blame for the fact that the mass media sometimes focus public attention not on the main problems of protecting health, but on individual secondary circumstances, or unsubstantiated, sensational facts. We will also have to learn a lesson from this.

[Belitskiy] Please tell us briefly about the main directions of restructuring in the health service planned by the ministry's new leadership.

[Chazov] I shall indeed discuss them briefly because detailed plans and calculations need, of course, to be coordinated and approved since they concern the country's entire population.

The system of planning and organizing the health service requires fundamental changes. We and also the USSR Gosplan and the Ministry of Finance will have to make proposals in the very near future on an entire package of indicators ensuring the intensive path of development and the switch to evaluating the qualitative and not the quantitave side of things. [paragraph continues]

The doctor must be answerable for the health of the people with whom he works, he must be interested in precisely this result, and not in how much paper he covers in writing and how many patients he processes through his office. By the way, an experiment we have organized jointly with AUCCTU in a number of oblasts and in one Moscow rayon is directed toward this: The doctor can issue a first medical certificate for a period of up to 12 days, depending on the illness. If our expectations are vindicated, we will extend this system next year to the entire health system.

At all levels -- from the polyclinic to the republic ministry -- it is essential to ensure greater independence in administration and economic management methods. It is absurd to rely in everything on instructions "from the center," if only because every institution has its own peculiarities: For example, in the republics of Central Asia the priority is the struggle against infant mortality and infectious diseases, and in the Baltic republics cardiology and oncology are the most topical questions.

The second path is strengthening and developing the material and technical base. The solution of this task depends not only on us but on local soviets and on the ministries and departments producing the technology, instruments and medicines and conducting the planning and construction. Of course, we ourselves must use the sector's potential much more efficiently -- increase the so-called turnover of beds (for example, in Georgia beds remain empty for almost one-third of the time), intensify the work of the existing laboratories, offices, and units, and so forth.

The third is cadres. In addition to improving medical education forms of refresher training, the prestige of the Soviet doctor must be increased. This process also demands an uncompromising struggle against unworthy medics, whose irresponsibility, lack of professionalism, and bribe-taking cast suspicion on honest workers. So we are now raising the question of formulating particular legal norms to make it possible to strip such people, alien to our most humane profession, of their medical diploma.

Finally, the most important path is to develop scientific research and put its results into practice. The lag here is enormous. I believe these questions will be analyzed in detail at a special Academy of Medical Sciences session which is now being prepared. I can say right now that, according to the most moderate estimates, about 100 scientific institutes which have produced nothing for years except instructions and recommendations could have been closed, and in return scientific collectives which work well could have been strengthened and large centers capable of putting forward new ideas could have been set up. We need such powerful scientific centers in the spheres of neurology, biotechnology, pharmacology, and immunology..... To accelerate restructuring in science and bring it closer to practice, we intend to carry out major structural changes in the ministry itself and to radically change the scientific council's work.

[Belitskiy] Yevgeniy Ivanovich, during the collegium's discussion, proposals were put forward to change the organization of the health service -- in particular to abolish the zonal principle, introducing instead the institution of so-called "family" doctors; to borrow experience that already exists in some countries -- Cuba and Poland -- offering the patient a free choice of the doctor whom he most trusts; to set up a centralized pathology and anatomy service independent of therapeutic establishments, on the model of the forensic medical system; to expand the rights of head doctors, giving them the opportunity to more freely manage resources and redistribute pay -- within the limits of the allotted sums -- according to the workload and quality of the work of doctors and other personnel; and to consider the switch to financial autonomy and self-capitalization as the main means of intensifying labor....

What will be the fate of these and other proposals put forward?

[Chazov] They are not new, there has long been discussion about this in the corridors and on the stairs, so to speak. The new factor is the serious attitude at the top level of the sector's management toward all logical ideas and world experience. Of course, not everything can be introduced immediately, and clearly not everything is suitable for our conditions. We have already planned a whole series of experiments at different levels and in various regions of the country, and we intend to conduct them in a very organized and speedy fashion.

[Belitskiy] How do you see the role of the trade unions in the coming restructuring of the sector's work?

[Chazov] I see it as very broad! I would say first of all that the 18th Trade Union Congress set trade union committees and health service organs the task of reducing labor losses in the national economy and reducing by 15 percent within the 5-year plan period the incidence of illness resulting in temporary absence from work -- to around 7.5-8 days per worker per year.

Together with trade unions and departments, we must set up a medical and sanitary unit and a preventive treatment sanatorium in every enterprise with a labor force of more than 5,000.

Together with the Medical Workers Union Central Committee we are now examining questions concerning the certification of doctors, paramedics, and nurses and the transfer of medical establishments -- in the wake of enterprises -- to multishift working. Public monitoring of how the improvement of medics' wages in accordance with the well known party and government resolution is proceeding at local level is absolutely essential -- there is still a great deal to do in this area.

Of course, we very much hope for real help from the trade union committees in both our system and closely related sectors in solving the problems of restructuring which I mentioned earlier.

[Belitskiy] The decisive switch of the health service to the lines of intensification which you spoke about will, of course, attract great attention from our readers, since medicine is a traditional subject for TRUD. In view of what you said about the necessity of public monitoring, maybe it would be worth telling the paper about the progress of restructuring, the planned experiments, and their results more often? This would give the readers the opportunity to better judge how far the intentions of the sector management's upper echelons are becoming the working practice of the lower ones. The publicity and openness of the changes would probably also play a role in improving the matter itself and increasing trust in doctors -- of which, as you say, there is such a lack today.

[Chazov] We intend to meet periodically with representatives of the press and to talk about our problems and in this way report to the population on progress in fulfilling the projected measures and on their effectiveness. You are right: Those for whom we exist must judge what we do.

CHAZOV HOLDS NEWS CONFERENCE, REMARKS ON COMBATING AIDS

PM011401 Moscow TRUD in Russian 28 Mar 87 p 1

[Unattributed report: "USSR Ministry of Health News Conference"]

[Text] Yesterday the leaders of the USSR Ministry of Health held a news conference at the Academy of Medical Sciences -- the first of a series of meetings with journalists, which, as Minister Ye.I. Chazov noted, will henceforth be a regular event. At yesterday's meeting the theme was the principles of restructuring in the health service (readers of TRUD will know of them from the interview with the minister published on 24 March).

There was also an account at the news conference of the problems that have arisen in the world as a result of the appearance of the AIDS virus some years ago. This as yet incurable disease, first diagnosed in the United States, spreads mainly among sexual deviants, drug addicts, and sufferers from a number of diseases requiring regular transfusions of blood and blood products. The danger of the disease, which scientists from all countrties are combating, is that the virus damages the immune system and the organism becomes vulnerable to any infection.

The health leaders and directors of a number of medical institutes reported on the measures being taken to present the spread of the disease in our country. In particular, special test kits are now being produced to monitor the state or health and a network of diagnostic laboratories is being developed. A number of other measures is also being taken which, the experts believe, will make it possible to erect a reliable barrier to the disease at the present stage.

The ministry leaders answered numerous questions from journalists.

PAPER CARRIES KOLBIN CONCLUDING SPEECH AT PLENUM

PM021542 Alma-Ata KAZAKHSTANSKAYA PRAVDA in Russian 17 Mar 87 pp 1-2

["Concluding Speech by Comrade G.V. Kolbin, First Secretary of the Kazakh Communist Party Central Committee," delivered at 14 March Kazakh Communist Party Central Committee Plenum]

[Text] Comrades! A distinctive feature of our plenum today is that the Kazakh Communist Party Central Committee and its sections did not specially prepare the speakers or give them guidance in the discussion. I mean the Central Committee apparatus workers did not ask those wishing to speak at the plenum to submit texts to check to see whether they were suitably composed or what ideas they expressed. It would be incorrect to claim that the speakers had not been prepared. Let us be frank -- they had been prepared, but not according to the former practice -- they were prepared in a different manner. Thus a few days before the plenum we sent copies of the Kazakh Communist Party Central Committee Bureau report to all the party obkoms in full and unabridged, so that the Central Committee members could study it.

This, in our view, was a democratic basis for preparing everyone who wished to take part in a frank discussion.

It is the general opinion that this open [glasnyy] approach evokes and reinforces a sense of confidence, respect, and satisfaction, and that it enriched the content and determined the character of the plenum discussion and entirely justified itself. [paragraph continues]

Because the speakers, without circumspection, without constraint, openly [otkryto] expressed their thoughts, supplemented the report, and submitted proposals, not fearing that their opinion would displease someone or other. It is no exaggeration to say that at today's plenum an atmosphere of mutual exactingness, criticism and self-criticism, and frank discussion prevailed, which clearly accords with the spirit and content of the CPSU Central Committee January Plenum.

In a word, this kind of practice in preparation for collective discussion seems to me to merit wide dissemination and further development. I will say more. Today's report is not the report of the first secretary of the Central Committee. It is the report of the Kazakh Communist Party Central Committee Bureau, prepared jointly by its members. Moreover it is also the report of the first secretaries of all 19 of the republic's obkoms, since we sent out this report and the draft resolution to the localities in advance and asked for observations and proposals. I will say frankly, when we were finalizing the plenum materials we took the observations into account, because they were all sensible. Thus the report submitted for consideration by today's plenum can be regarded as the report of the Central Committee Bureau members, the first secretaries of party obkoms, and the comrades belonging to the Kazakh Communist Party Central Committee and also to the CPSU Central Committee.

What ideas arise in the course of today's free and businesslike discussion of the questions, based on intraparty democracy? First. It is very important that the mutual criticism voiced of this or that comrade should not disunite us, but unite us, and that the resolution of our common tasks should not be influenced by personal offense taken at just criticism.

We must channel our united efforts into the resolution of the main tasks facing us today, first and foremost tasks in the dynamic development of the economy and the substantial increase of the republic's contribution to the assets of the whole union. Here it is of fundamental importance to all of us to know not only how Kazakhstan's national economic complex is developing, but also what potential it posseses which could be utilized so as to enable it markedly to increase its contribution to the union coffers and overcome the negative balance in production and consumption. That means the return on the capital received must be significantly greater. As you know, we have set our own target -- to achieve a 6-percent growth in industrial production. That is for the republic as a whole. It is not impossible that certain oblasts could produce an increase of, say, 8 or 5 percent, which would also be above plan. Thus the task is, in light of the accumulated industrial potential and the better utilization of capacities in each oblast, to seek to achieve the maximum end results, so as to ensure the growing labor effort of each of Kazakhstan's oblasts is felt more rapidly and more tangibly in the all-union division of labor and in the international efforts of the Soviet people.

It must be said that as a counterweight to the uncommon regional, local, and economic parasitism and egotism, the true principles of socialist internationalism must be established more firmly everywhere in the republic. One effective means of doing this is a reliable, dynamic increase in the production of quality output.

The problems of internationalism are multifaceted. We still have to conduct a detailed discussion of this and define and implement a comprehensive program in this area of communist education. Today, however, I would like to touch on just one aspect -- the cultivation of national feelings. This quality is not a matter of indifference to any representative of a particular nation, and he has a right to be proud of his national feeling. It would be wrong and unrealistic to stifle that feeling or fail to respect it. [paragraph continues]

We should therefore cultivate the sense of national belonging and learn to control our feelings. Otherwise, uncontrolled national pride and its excessive display can turn into nationalism.

Many of us display concern in this regard. We criticize these and other negative phenomena but the criticism is not accompanied by practical proposals. Such criticism, which borders on fault-finding, is, frankly, not useful, and sometimes can even be harmful. Because if you say that you must not do the job that way, but do not way how it should be done, you do not convince the listener, you only plunge him into even greater confusion. This attitude toward resolving a question causes nothing but distrust and mutual suspicion. For some reason, people often lose sight of the need to cultivate a sense of belonging to the united fraternal family of our peoples, a sense of pride in belonging to the citizenship of the USSR. That is the first thing.

Now the second thing. We have all somehow become gradually accustomed to the idea that each nation should take care of the development of its language, its own culture, its own writers, and we have not much evidence of representatives of one nation, say, also taking an interest in the development of another nation's language and culture.

I think this aspect is directly connected with questions of the relationship of the national and the international, with questions of the general level of culture. For a long time we have been shouting from the roof tops that in the national republics, including ours, culture has grown beyond measure. Yes, indeed, we have created a substantial material base for culture. We have cadres in culture and art -- writers, artists, musicians. All that is true. As for education, the mastery of the true heights of culture as such, we must give this very serious thought, because the aspiration to achieve true spiritual culture has not yet been properly inculcated in many categories of people, and in my view it is premature to loudly proclaim our victories here. We have the material base, but many peoples have no desire for spiritual education and self-improvement, no desire for or interest in their own literature or the literature of other peoples, no desire to visit theaters, concert halls, and so forth.

Now that the republic party organization is directly and practically engaged in a restructuring of work in the economic and social sphere and intends to seriously examine questions of international education and international relations at the next plenum, it is important to draw attention to another aspect of our practice too.

I mean that on questions of national and international relations the criterion for evaluation which has gradually become established in our consciousnes is one which does not always unite us. Following this criterion, which, in our view, is obsolete, we continue to count up which nation has more and which nations have fewer representatives in the leadership nucleus of the republic, oblast, city, or rayon. It is not taken into account that the resolution of international and national problems takes place both on the level of the formation and education of the national working class and the traing of specialist, and on the level of daily life, the provision of housing and food products, the strengthening of order and discipline, access to the best examples of the culture of the nation and of the country and of foreign culture, and the cultivation of reasonable needs, and also on the level of the formation of selfless devotion to communist ideals and the cause of Great October among the young generation. You cannot count on the fingers of one man's hands all the main avenues of international education as a connecting, integral whole for a representative of each nation. We have taken one avenue as our basis and we determine by numbers, so to speak, how many people represent this or that nation on elected organs or in leadership posts. [paragraph continues]

We are not too particular about who represents the nation. So not infrequently someone who is not the best representative, not an authoritative representative of the nation is on a leadership organ.

In cadre selection we are often guided -- and not only in our republic -- not by practical, political, or other qualities, but by formal membership of a nation. I think this approach is a distortion, an anachronism, and should be eradicated from the practice of party organs at every level without exception.

This is a question of tremendous importance. Its resolution also lies in the better selection and bolder advancement of a new stratum of trained, energetic young people. Let me be completely frank with you. Today the age range of the leadership of our party obkoms. Oblispolkoms, and the majority of republican organs is 50-60. There are virtually no young people. Can that be right? Today we have elected a new Central Committee secretary, Comrade Yu.A. Meshcheryakov. He is 40. It is true that certain comrades thought long and hard about his candidacy, partly because of his age.

I think we should resolutely review the established stereotypes here. How should we prepare new cadres? Who should be promoted first and foremost? Today we must be bolder in appointing young people to leadership work. Here, of course, we cannot get away without doing individual work with a promising worker and helping him in the early stages. After all, why is it our workers are transferred mainly horizontally, round and round as if on a polishing wheel? Because it is thought that these are reliable, tried and tested cadres. Worthy, authoritative young people are usually recommended only warily. We must resolutely eradicate this opinion on cadre questions. Among the 50-60-year-old leaders there must be new recruits, a reserve for promotion. That means raising young cadres as good seedlings. We have no shortage of young, talented, true youth leaders. It is only necessary to know how to identify them, and not on the basis of questionnaires, but in real, concrete work.

In the republic today, to be frank, a struggle is under way to assert justice, and the appropriate party and organizational conclusions must be drawn in relation to many cadres. Here too we must take the correct position, and in particular resolutely eradicate the desire for a mass "slaughter" of cadres. I will cite one example which some people boast about, when they should feel ashamed. Overreporting was organized in livestock production in Uralsk Oblast. The organizer was dismissed and punished, but 60 sovkhoz directors were punished along with him. Can that be right? After all, many of them were forced into overreporting. What should be done with these cadres now? This means it is necessary to determine each one's guilt fairly and in good time, without resorting to mass punishments. Today's report also spoke of calling a similar number of people to account in Chimkent Oblast. The main organizers of the bribery have been arrested. We must be aware many ordinary workers were forced into unlawful actions.

Today we have indeed had a frank discussion. I think both the form and the character of this discussion should become the norm in all part obkoms, gorkoms, and raykoms. In this regard I submit a proposal: From now on to abolish the previewing, and in particular the editing, of speeches. Has there or has there not been any case in the republic of the Kazakh Communist Party Central Committee taking a party obkom bureau report on some question or other in order to review it? There has not. Nor will there be especially since the CPSU Central Committee January (1987) Plenum, we will treat both reports and speeches with greater trust and respect.

Today's discussion further strengthened the basis for serious restructuring which has begun in the republic. The plenum is ending its own work, but it is beginning and continuing my work and yours, comrades, in the localities everywhere.

In conclusion I would like to express cordial gratitude to the Communist Party Central Committee for the approval and support of the constructive approaches taken by the Bureau and the Central Committee secretaries on questions of restructuring and work with cadres. As for the criticisms which have been voiced here, we will draw the correct party conclusions on every one of them.

MUSLIM LEADER ON IMPERIALISM, AFGHAN PROBLEM

LD131109 Moscow TASS in English 1032 GMT 13 Mar 87

[Text] Moscow March 13 TASS -- "The Muslim religion, proceeding from its teaching, calls on the believers to live in friendship with all people of goodwill", Shamsutdin Babakhanov, chairman of the Muslim Board of Central Asia and Kazakhstan, member of the board of the Soviet Society for Friendship with Arab Countries, has said in an interview with a TASS correspondent.

"Islam and salam (peace) are words of the same root. This is why the Muslim Board of Central Asia and Kazakhstan when receiving hundreds of foreign delegations every year explains to the guests the peaceful policy of our state, the policy which is being actively supported by the Soviet Union's Muslim as well. In 1986, which has been proclaimed the International Year of Peace, we received 531 delegations with an aggregate membership of over 11,000".

Speaking of the hostile anti-Afghan campaign which has been launched by the forces of world reaction under the cover of assertions about "defence of Islam" in that country, Shamsutdin Babakhanov stated:

"The whole world knows now what is meant by the 'defence' and what kind of policy is behind this word. Is it possible to understand such 'defenders' when they kill Afghans by using Afghans and when they sow discord between peoples?

"We maintain close contacts with the Muslim leaders of Afghanistan and receive hundreds of Afghans here, in this country, every year. They themselves say that those who support the counterrevolutionaries, the enemies of Afghanistan, directly serve the goals and ideas of imperialism, and are puppets of the United States and of America's satellite countries."

"Those who are outside Afghanistan and who fight against their own country, have got a remarkable opportunity to return home now that the policy towards national reconciliation is being carried out. There are already dozens of thousands of people who sincerely strive to return home".

"As for those who are under the influence of dark forces which come out against Afghanistan, they are being hindered very much from returning home. But I hope that the bulk of Afghans who are outside their country will return home soon", the chairman of the Muslim Board of Central Asia and Kazakhstan pointed out in conclusion.

MINISTER OF CULTURE ZAKHAROV ON RESTRUCTURING

AU020823 Prague RUDE PRAVO in Czech 19 Mar 87 p 5

[Interview with Vasiliy Zakharov, USSR minister of culture, by Lubor Kazda and Jaroslav Kojzar for the "Culture" column: "Incentives for the Mind and the Heart" -- in Moscow, date not given]

[Excerpts] Moscow -- What is predominant in the life of Soviet culture, what is happening in it, how it is sharing in applying the congress strategy of accelerating the country's development -- all this was the topic of the interview with RUDE PRAVO by Vasiliy Zakharov, CPSU Central Committee member and USSR minister of culture.

[Correspondent] How would you characterize the role of culture in the context of the current far-reaching transformations in Soviet society?

[Zakharov] [passage omitted] We often talk about the so-called human factor being the decisive element in the struggle to achieve the goals formulated in the strategy of the 27th CPSU Congress. Culture is able to activate man in very respect, to involve him in all that is happening around him, and to provide food for thought about his place in society; all this makes it one of the key levers of restructuring; this is no exaggeration. [passage omitted]

[Correspondent] What are the results of creative artists' congresses and how do you assess them?

[Zakharov] The congresses have provided new incentives for the artists' unions and for new creativity. A cleansing process has removed various manifestations of rigidity and complacency. The congresses were most critical, at times extremely stormy (this particularly applies to the film-makers' congress), and filled with animated, thorough, free [svobodne] discussions about the course to be followed. The congresses have clearly shown that our creative intelligentsia has accepted the policy elaborated and promoted by the CPSU; and that it has fully linked its plans with socialism and the goals contained in the party's new programmatic document. The CPSU Central Committee has appreciated and supported this decisive, determining feature of the deliberations of our creative artists' unions. Despite the unprecedented sharpness of the debates and the emotional storms manifested in certain statements, the discussions produced mature, constructive conclusions in the spirit of the party congress line. It is thus only natural we appraise these forums positively. Regarding the emotions I have mentioned, I should like to say that whenever something great is set in motion, foam appears on the surface of the main stream. Such foam has also appeared now, as a peripheral phenomenon. The emotions were due, among other things, to the fact that a number of problems in the unions were connected with the lack of a natural exchange of cadres in their leadership and the fact that certain people holding key functions have become accustomed to thinking for decades that the unions are here to serve them, and not vice versa. As you know, the congresses have opened the doors wide to an exchange of cadres. [passage omitted]

[Correspondent] Is the repertory theater not threatened by commercialization? Will the theaters, led by purely economic viewpoints, not starting catering to vulgar tastes?

[Zakharov] This is undoubtedly a risk; attempts to achieve cheap success could really appear. However, the stress lies on "attempts," because the experience of many years confirms that up to now none of the USSR theaters has built lasting success with a repertory catering to vulgar tastes. [passage omitted]

[Correspondent] Which problems must be overcome in promoting the restructuring of cultural life?

[Zakharov] It is becoming evident that a number of people are still not prepared to accept the expansions of democracy. Some of them would like to have rights without responsibilities -- but then it would not be democracy, it would be anarchy. Certain creative artists are obviously incapable of risking failure; they have become accustomed to covering their backs and having somebody at hand whom they can make responsible for any artistic fiasco. It is obviously one of the most difficult things to change a comfortable stereotype. [passage omitted]

Likewise, many people on the staff of our ministry and its institutions find it very painful to oppose what is routine, expand democratic principles, and intensify the flow of information to the public. They believe sharing their rights with the artists' unions, or directly with creative collectives, means diminishing their importance. I could simplify this by stating that they regard everything that does not bear their signature as a phenomenon that is out of hand. In cultural management we must overcome bureaucracy, but also all administrative notions about managing culture by means of "paper work."

[Correspondent] What is the main task here?

[Zakharov] To exchange the concept of approaching all work. A lot of things considered valid for years have failed to pass the test of time. This applies, for instance, to the conviction that the penetration of music or graphic arts by Western mass culture can be prevented by the method of "banning." On the contrary, this method has only greatly increased some young people's interest in certain musical trends. The British newspaper the SUNDAY TIMES recently claimed that rock groups in Leningrad -- which the paper called "illegal," although this term is imprecise to say the least, since the groups existed before and could also perform, even if they were not provided with larger halls for their performances -- can today play to large audiences, but must expect public interest to wane, since one of the main aspects of their popularity among young people was "the romantic nature of the unattainable." We are not concerned with banning interpretive artists, but with encouraging them to make an active comparison beween their qualities and the qualities of others. We want to stimulate artistic quality in various genres, and to promote ideological maturity, which we want to encourage in contrast to the decline in values and trends, and thus refine the people's taste and awaken a different, higher-quality cultural interest. This method is undoubtedly far more complicated and demanding than that the method of banning, but it is the only possible one. Provided, of course, the doors continue to be barred to all attempts to abuse culture to promote antihumanism, violence, wars, or low instincts, in short, all things that deform man, appeal only to his baser instincts, and manipulate him.

[Correspondent] This means that more emphasis must be placed on the effective educational impact of culture?

[Zakharov] True. Speaking of music: A prejudice has become rooted in the minds of certain composers. This is that people can be reared solely on so-called serious music; and that light music is totally unsuitable for this purpose and therefore deserves neither particular attention, nor work with its composers. I disagree with this view. By calling itself serious, music does not automatically become more valuable as art, or more useful as a social asset. When the Ministry of Culture buys oratoriums, symphonies, or operas which nobody wants to hear or play,and when their scores gather dust in archives, how does this help the listeners, and whom can we reach by doing this? [passage omitted]

[Correspondent] We have not mentioned artistic criticism. How do you assess its current standards, and what tasks will it have to face?

[Zakharov] The standards of artistic criticism do not fully correspond to our current demands. I hasten to add that, in my opinion, artistic criticism itself is not to blame for this; it has been operating for many years as an obedient flunky, whose task was to gratify the smug complacency of individual influential personalities in culture, or of large groups. Deplorably, this was a fact; and the damaging consequences were the wavering ideological-artistic criteria and their unstable practical application.

Under the new conditions, artistic criticism will have to be the main bearer of the party approach to art, which is under appraisal. Neither the party, nor the state want to meddle in the creative process. It is the task of the cultural front, of which artistic criticism is an integral part, to assert the aims of our cultural policy directly. That means it is the task of educated, experienced, sensitive, and appreciative critics with firm principles and a party way of thinking. The task of competent people. Who else can undertake this task?

Do we already have such critics? No, we still do not have such a critical front; and since the role of artistic criticism is becoming increasingly important, we are adopting a number of important measures to improve the critics' education and promote their further growth. Moreover, we are concerned with establishing a social atmosphere in which one realistically implements the right and duty of artistic criticism to express its views and judgments in a frank and qualified manner, without being subject to time-serving and other pressures. [passage omitted] Criticisms should also clash; they should crystallize the deepest and most objective analyses of works of art. Surely, by doing this criticism fulfills its mission as a motive force. Its Marxist methodology entitles criticism to appraise, to apply party-minded and popular criteria as the source of socialist realism. We must help it in this respect; the unions of creative artists must help it in this respect; and so forth.

[Correspondent] How is your ministry cooperating with artistic critics and with journalists?

[Zakharov] Recently we have considerably expanded our contacts with the press, and not merely with artistic critics. [passage omitted] I would also like to say we do not understand the task of informing the public about the ministry's work as a "one-way street"; we, too, express our views on the statements in the press, we voice our questions, we warn, and engage in polemics. [passage omitted]

[Correspondent] How do you assess Czechoslovak-Soviet cultural cooperation, and where do you see untapped possibilities in it?

[Zakharov] I can say with satisfaction that our mutual cultural exchange is rich, fruitful, and successful; that it contributes to the deepening of our traditional friendship and is a lively part of the cooperation between our fraternal countries. However, if the number of cultural contacts has essentially reached the necessary level, I think that, in light of the growing requirements of both our countries regarding quality in all spheres of activity, we can also improve many things in the cultural exchange. For instance, we do not always select the top ensembles and top artists for guest performances. [passage omitted] I would also like to mention (and you can take this as my own self-criticism) that we should also enhance flexibility [operativnost] in our mutual cultural exchange.

[Correspondent] Thank you for the interview.

DAILY CITES BURLATSKIY ON OPPOSITION TO REFORMS

PM310912 Rome LA REPUBBLICA in Italian 27 Mar 87 p 11

[Interview with Soviet journalist Fedor Burlatskiy by Vladimiro Odinzov on 26 March in Rome]

[Text] Rome -- "Why so much surprise? It is simply an aspect of openness, of the approach being adopted to the issue of democratization and of a reappraisal of the attitudes held in the past. We have released some 100 dissidents and have held an international forum at which participants included Sakharov, and it is within this context that the publication by the weekly MOSCOW NEWS of the letter by a group of dissidents living abroad must be viewed."

Fedor Mikhailovich Burlatskiy is one of the best known Soviet journalists. A political scientist and graduate in philosophy and law, he teaches at Moscow University. He writes for LITERATURNAYA GAZETA, the radio, television, and the movies. He was one of the group of official Soviet spokesmen at the Reagan-Gorbachev summit in Reykjavik. For many years, frequently in conflict with the party, he has argued the need for a process now identified with the terms restructuring and openness.

Spectacular Decision [subhead]

We met with him yesterday together with other representatives of Soviet culture, art, and science in Rome to attend the study conference organized by the Italy-USSR Association. We felt it appropriate to ask him to explain the Moscow weekly's spectacular decision to reprint in full -- causing a great sensation -- the document a number of Soviet exiles published early in March in the French daily LE FIGARO.

"We simply wanted to show we have no fear of such harsh assessments and criticisms of the restructuring," Burlatskiy said. "Above all, the criticism contrasts sharply with that which we read every day in the foreign press, which on the whole issues a positive and realistic assessment of Gorbachev's action.

"Moreover," Fedor Mikhailovich continued, "I have the impression the letter also reflects a certain split perceptible within our emigre community, revealed in the fact that the letter carries only 10 signatures which, however representative, certainly do not interpret the position of all dissidents.

"It is a letter that expresses only critical assessments and raises questions about a certain kind of behavior. There is, for instance," Burlatskiy said, "the curious and provocative claim that only by publishing this letter would it be possible to demonstrate that a process of democratization is under way in the USSR. It was a challenge, and it has been met. Then there is another very counterproductive claim, that the people to whom the Kremlin has granted the right to emigrate -- that is, basically, the letter's authors themselves -- are KGB agents, spies, informers!

"Overall, it seems to me the letter's tone is anything but convincing. It is an unfortunate and ill-conceived letter. If these people abroad have the same concerns as us they should at least support the start of the process of reform and democratization. If they want to encourage it they should find the right way and form, not confining themselves to a generic protest that denies the existence of any process at all. In other words, they must make constructive criticisms."

[Odinzov] If you were to take stock of this process now, to write an overall assessment of the restructuring, what would you say?

[Burlatskiy] Openness is proceeding well, but it still needs to be completed by a number of practical decisions that will show the people the real results and effects of the restructuring. In particular it is a matter of activating cooperatives in all economic and social sectors, demonstrating the new opportunities and openings for work. Pay must be increased on the basis of productivity, doubling or tripling it for the most capable. There is the major problem of showing the entire population the specific results produced by the reform. We, the intelligentsia, have already had our dividends in the form of openness; now these assets must be shared universally to avoid a split between the openness and the practical achievements of the reform.

Altering Structures [subhead]

[Odinzov] Why has all this not happened yet?

[Burlatskiy] In my opinion it is all proceeding slowly because it is difficult. It is a matter of fundamentally altering the structures within which people can work harder and with better benefits. There is "tradition", the traditionalism of a system that has become consolidated over the decades and within which it ultimately discovered its own advantage. [sentence as published]

There is strong and persistent opposition in the leadership mechanisms connected with powers and privileges that should be surrendered to younger and more capable people.

The third reason is the lack of specific regulations. Decisions are made at a high level; and instructions are issued that are not, or cannot be, implemented or that are distorted along the way. There are initiatives for change that lack the legal framework for their implementation.

Last, I would say the fourth reason is to be sought in the passiveness of the broad masses accustomed to enjoying benefits and advantages through various means -- probably not criminal but certainly illegal. I would say this is an established tradition of Soviet society.

[Odinzov] Fedor Mikhailovich, you have stressed openness, the dividend that has already benefitted the USSR's intelligentsia. How is this openness being used by the press and the other media to exert pressure on and influence the broad masses?

[Burlatskiy] I believe that within the context of the entire reform process the most significant and important development has been the change in the role of the press. What exactly do we mean by the term "openness?" It is information above all, but not only that. It is a matter of providing information about everything, both good and bad, that has happened both in our own country and abroad -- a comparison not only between what happened in our country in 1927 [as published] and the present but between what has happened during the same period in our country and in Japan, the United States, and Europe. Here too we still have many opponents among the scholars and journalists who cover our working environment. Why? Because of tradition -- a tradition that dwells in everyone's minds and that tends to oppose reform; a tradition that imposes thinking according to old patterns and models, that perceives and continues to judge the western world in terms of unemployment and inferiority to the socialist world in all fields; people who extol this system without comparing it with reality.

This is why the role and molding of public opinion is important as an irreplaceable element of democratization -- accustoming it to the right to criticize, to judging the decisions that are adopted, and to defining problems.

[Odinzov] Is it possible to envisage a kind of pluralism in the media?

[Burlatskiy] Not as you in the West understand it. Basically a pluralism of opinion already exists, but within the context of socialism, and in defense of this system. In the newspapers there are those who write -- even in sharp terms -- in favor of or against certain reform processes that must, however, be developed within a well-defined system.

[Odinzov] May we hear your forecast for the restructuring?

[Burlatskiy] Overall the trend is positive. There is a growing tide of enthusiasm. However, it is all still very difficult and slow because -- I repeat -- the opposition of the traditionalists and conservatives remains strong.

MARKOV WRITES ON JANUARY PLENUM, WRITERS' TASKS

PM231627 Moscow SOVETSKAYA KULTURA in Russian 12 Mar 87 p 3

["Writer's Notes" by Georgiy Markov" under the rubric "Problems, Opinions": "Will It Work? Yes, It Will Work!"]

[Text] Much has been said -- at length and in depth -- about restructuring, its meaning, and its objectives, but this does not at all mean that all the deliberations are over and done with, that the ideas of restructuring have filtered through to everyone, have become part of everyone's awareness, and have acquired the power of guidelines for action. No, far from it. The point here is not just that the process of explaining restructuring is not simple, but also that restructuring itself, as a creative process which is developing and building up rhythm and scope, generates new experience by the hour, raises a countless number of problems and questions, and consequently requires constant analysis, uninterrupted deliberation, and calculation of pluses and minuses in actual practice. The masses are participating in restructuring in their millions. Nothing is more important than the creativity of the masses themselves, their activity, and their creative work....

The skeptics have not disappeared, either. This peculiar breed contains some individuals who are so stubborn as to make you almost give up all hope. Comrades tell stories: One can still encounter among the adversaries of oil prospecting in West Siberia some obstinate people who keep on claiming: "You'll find no oil in west Siberia!" "But our extraction figures are already in the hundreds of millions." "You still won't find any!" -- and anything you may say or do is to no avail.

Skeptics like that still exclaim despondently about restructuring: "Who intended it, this restructuring? Nothing good will come of it." At this point it must be said with the utmost certainty that no one invented restructuring: It was promoted by life itself, by the very course of socialist development, and the party and its Central Committee sensed its growing strength. For a long time now, for years and years, life has been giving us one sign after another, so to speak, calling for urgent attention to be paid to the phenomena of stagnation. [paragraph continues]

Furthermore, nuclei of restructuring appeared and took shape here and there, sometimes evolving into remarkable developments in an oblast or even a region and other times withering away for want of proper support, but it is also true to say that some of these phenomena survive to this day to provide a mainstay in the work now that restructuring has spread wide and deep. It was no accident that, following the CPSU Central Committee April (1985) Plenum, the party's restructuring course was picked up by people in their millions, who sensed the inevitable: The time has come! It is perfectly clear that even the most sophisticated "invention" is incapable of carrying the masses along and opening the floodgates of their boundless energy.

From the historical viewpoint, restructuring is a law-governed and irreversible stage in our socialist life. If we trace accurately its sources, its intrinsic features, its pedigree, so to speak, all these elements link it most closely with other stages of socialist building like the reconstruction of the national economy, the industrialization of the country, collectivization, the postwar restoration, and our 5-year plans.

The law-governed nature of restructuring and its organic oneness with the socialist system are also indicated by the fact that it is revealing its international essence and enriching the policy of communist parties in a number of other countries.

It seems that the renewal of socialist and the improvement of socialist society are not just a privilege of ours; these terms are components of all socialism, of its theory and practice as a whole. We are already hearing about the communist parties in Vietnam, Hungary, Poland and other countries elaborating new approaches to the solution of strategic and tactical tasks, paying thorough attention to our experience. After all, we have no aversion to the experience of our friends. This is natural, it underlies the very logic of contacts between the advanced forces of today's world.

Restructuring is generating enormous interest in the capitalist countries too. And how! After all, the competition between socialism and capitalism has not developed only now: It started on the first day of the October Revolution. It has gone on, and it is going on, rising higher and higher in an upward spiral.

The interest shown in us by the bosses of capitalism displays an increasingly strong alarm: "What if it suddenly works?" Figures in the capitalist world are perfectly well aware that their most eminent forecasters, whose brain power and knowledge we do not dispute, have on numerous occasions slipped up badly in front of the whole of mankind. This is what happened at the dawn of Soviet power, and it has also happened quite recently: If nothing else, just recall the story of pumping gas from our northern gas fields to West Europe.

Their alarm was aggravated further still by the CPSU Central Committee January Plenum. It was known that a plenum was to be held in November-December. The postponement occurred not only because of the overload of other most important state and social measures, but also because the Politburo time and again thought over, weighed up, and considered everything -- everything that ultimately went to make up the mature plan of action. This characteristic of a considered and totally responsible approach to our task must imbue the entire sphere of our social life, each one of its links, and every cell, large or small. This is what is meant by the real embodiment of party policy! do not fuss, do not be in a hurry to shout different slogans, but ponder how to unite words and deeds!

Of course, the postponement of the plenum produced quite a few misinterpretations in the West. Oracles of all colors and hues crept out of their malodorous lairs and started screaming for everyone to hear: "Fight in the Kremlin! Soviet leaders differ in assessing the potential of restructuring. Substantial cadre changes expected at plenum. Impending chaos in the country."

So, the plenum opened. The members of the Politburo and the general secretary of the Central Committee were calm, communicative. Comrade Gorbachev's 3-hour report was heard in a single breath, so to speak. Analysis of what is happening and of the need for restructuring, the exposure of pluses and minuses in the style of party and state leadership, talk about the state of affairs in industry, the agro-industrial complex, trade, and ideological education work. All this was spoken of sharply and demandingly, with special emphasis being placed on shortcomings, miscalculations, and unsolved tasks.

Then the debate started. Exceptionally meaningful, profoundly thoughtful, broad in its coverage of the facts of life and work. Party leaders, workers, kolkhoz members, ministers, academicians, and artists spoke. The progress of restructuring was analyzed from the most diverse positions, the situation was related to Lenin's teaching, and Lenin's name was mentioned more often than ever before, and each time this was done appropriately, accurately, and as an inseparable part of the daily struggle waged by the party and the people for restructuring.

In the course of these 2 days of debate it became clear that the bourgeois figures' expectations of some split within the party leadership were nothing but yet another soap bubble, yet another adventurist fable designed to fool the gullible. The Politburo's line and Mikhail Sergeyevich Gorbachev's report were unanimously supported in all speeches. The resolution on the question "On Restructuring and the Party's Cadre Policy" was adopted unanimously and with enormous inner enthusiasm by all who were present at the plenum. The foreign "voices" noticed this fact. There was even greater alarm in the camp of bourgeois prophets: "What if it suddenly works?"

It can be confidently said that the entire sphere of spiritual life and the state of literature and art were among the main topics discussed at the plenum. This evidence is quite significant, and it gives food for the most serious thought. Writers, musicians, painters, and artists -- our country's entire artistic world is intensely seeking how best to respond in a businesslike fashion to party criticism, what to do in order to enrich Soviet culture within the briefest of periods with new works capable of captivating our people and helping them to become even more active, conscientious, and spiritually elevated.

The most diverse viewpoints are expressed in this universal and frank conversation, nothing and no one holds back or regulates the orientation and contents of these statements. At times, intoxication with the free flight of fancy leads to paradoxes or immoderate statements. But that is only to be expected; the grains of truth do not lie on the surface.

Everyone is perfectly well aware that time is the most precious element of restructuring. Restructuring must be neither dragged out nor postponed. Furthermore, once launched, it must gather impetus and a fast pace and must produce real results. The further it progresses, the more tangible these results will be.

The following question lies at the core of numerous reflections: Can literature, by assisting the swiftest implementation of restructuring, boost its own influence on restructuring? [paragraph continues]

Can literature itself display the flexibility and efficiency necessary in today's conditions, can it respond to the demands made by life, marching in step with life and at times even outstripping it? "Things are clearer when seen from a distance" -- hardly anyone is in a position to dispute these winged words by the poet. But should this sentence be interpreted literally? Does it not contain the multifaceted dialectical wisdom making it possible to apply this formula in the quest for responses to the most sharp demands made by literature of its own self? It undoubtedly does. The term distance is, in my view, a highly figurative term: A day represents a distance, a year also represents a distance, and so does a decade or a century in its own fashion. It is quite likely that the term distance encompasses primarily the entire totality of an artist's talent and civic maturity, the extent to which he perceives the present and his duty to the people.

The specific nature of literature's tasks at various stages and times helps us to gain a better understanding of the experience of the past. Indeed, we are not simpletons who have forgotten their origins, we are not just critics of the past but also its heirs and continuers. The more frequently we recall how the classic writers of our distant and not so distant past worked, the better we will learn the lessons bequeathed to us.

Our classic writers were able to write excellent works when they wrote over a long period of time, but they were also able to do so when they wrote quickly. Works abounding in artistic force and exuding social passion and unfading talent were written within the briefest of periods. Intoxication with their work, poetic inspiration, a time when the hands cannot keep up with the flight of ideas -- that is the concentration of a writer's will and talent which, as a rule, brings in literature the gains which it always desires and needs.

Talent is something individual, and we know that slowness in work does not always prevent failures while speed is not always synonymous with haste. Everything is determined by the end result -- the work's quality.

Literature's greatest strength lies in the multiplicity of its media. Writings on current affairs occupy a leading position here. But writings on current affairs ought to be perceived not just as a branch of literature, but also as an expression of the topicality of all literature, the abundance of contemporary problems in it, and its burning response to topical questions of the present.

It is here that restructuring in literature and new thinking among writers have been recently displayed. It can be said with confidence that literature is already making its real contribution to the restructuring of society and the renewal of all our life.

Our biggest and most famous newspapers -- PRAVDA, IZVESTIYA, SOVETSKAYA ROSSIYA, KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA, SOVETSKAYA KULTURA, LITERATURNAYA GAZETA -- have published dozens of articles by writers to which the public has responded. I would like to emphasize that many of these items not only were saturated with the topicality of the time, but were also an indisputable fact of art in the use of words and imagery and were phenomena of literature itself. Our literary scientists will probably have to work hard on the scientific classification of works by writers of the present. This is a matter of considerable professional interest, since literature is explained theoretically, its experience is summed up, and its most important components are highlighted. This is necessary today, and it may become even more necessary tomorrow.

The latest issues of the main journals have yielded what was expected. The emergence of major prose work in the foreground. In addition to the famous works by Yu. Bondarev, I. Vasilyev, Ch. Aytmatov, V. Rasputin, and V. Astafyev, which appeared to accompany restructuring in terms of artistic premonition, we have seen the novellas "The Bull" [Zubr] by D. Granin and "The Ghosts of Nuremberg" [Nyurnbergskiye Prizraki] by A. Chakovskiy, Yu. Sergeyev's "Backbone" [Stanovoy Khrebet], and others. It is possible that they may have been conceived even before the restructuring, but there can be no doubt that their final drafting took place already under the impact of the ideas of the April Plenum and the party congress.

Play writing is also on the move, both for the theater and for the movies; I know for a fact that, following a relatively long break, writers are offering new works to the theaters and movie studios, and the main topic of study in most of these works is provided by human destinies under the conditions of the struggle for restructuring.

Poetry is not too far behind. Everyone is waiting for a growth in its activeness. After all, it is the most flexible genre. Restructuring has demanded of it a serious reorganization of forces and a regrouping of attitudes and views. The inconsistency of superficial abstract poetry has become particularly glaring. Our journals and newspapers must help poets come more quickly within the field of vision of broad reading circles. But the poets themselves would not be wrong to boost their own activeness, especially from platforms like television and radio.

Our literary critics have also stirred to a certain extent. Readers have given attention to several major articles published in our newspapers and journals. These are the articles by A. Mikhaylov in PRAVDA, V. Lakshin in IZVESTIYA, Natalya Ivanova in ZNAMYA, Tatyana Ivanova in LITERATURNAYA GAZETA, Natalya Krymova in SOVETSKAYA KULTURA, and others. The articles cover almost completely the most remarkable artistic phenomena, generate arguments on the essence of the problems raised, and are bolder in exposing the roots of our failures and mistakes. The reinstatement of a number of names passed over in silence for decades has added to the critics' work. The new old names will quite probably be the subject of rigorous study in the context of the entire history of literature.

Under the new conditions there has been unprecedented growth of writers' lively and direct contacts with working people. The writers' organizations have, by the way, accumulated considerable experience in addressing audiences of readers. Today a writer's impassioned words, accurate in both meaning and imagery, are needed as much as a good and necessary book. The last few weeks have seen festivals of literature held in the Udmurt and Mari ASSR's and in Tomsk Oblast. The form of such contacts may appear old, but their essence has changed as a result of the new phenomena caused by restructuring. The activeness of readers themselves has increased. Not only do they listen to the writers, but they also speak for themselves. They speak about their lives and the impressions left behind by literature, sharing their reflections on the actual process of restructuring. This dialogue is a source of mutual enrichment for both writers and readers, and helps them develop the qualities of active fighters for everything that is new.

The A.S. Pushkin memorial festival has only just ended in the country. It will continue in the future. Pushkin is endless, his creativity is inexhaustible. But here is a typical point: The mass participation in the Pushkin celebrations by millions of people, young and old alike, and the universal desire to bring Pushkin's muse closer to the new developments in our life will draw from the unfading treasury of his creativity the greatest possible amount of the poetic warmth and luminosity that we need along our path ahead.

Let us be sensitive to everything that is being born today as a result of efforts for restructuring and for the renewal of life. But the most important point is to be stricter in evaluations of the past. The years of the Soviet people's struggle against fascism come to mind. That period represented the supreme flight of the people's spirit: The inexhaustible recesses of their energy, like mighty sources, opened up everywhere, giving birth to miracles of bravery and valor. Literature and art, writers and painters, musicians and artists -- all of them together and each one individually -- then performed their duty to history and the people. This amazing creative fervor was rooted in great and all-embracing determination, the unprecedented fusion of literature and art with every instant of the people's life.

Today we must also acquire such a determination. It will reveal new reserves in everyone's soul and will encourage everyone to specific deeds. By no means everything has been done in this direction. By no means everything. Splashes of group passion, diverting living energy from work, are evidently firmly rooted in places. Here is something curious: The instigators of this are either impoverished people or people who have always lacked soul.

But life and its inexorable onward movement reach ever higher, setting one task after another -- tasks whose complexity and importance grow day by day. The Moscow international forum "For a Nuclear-Free World, for the Survival of Humanity" has only just ended.

Together with a large group of Soviet cultural figures, I had an opportunity to spend several days in direct contact with cultural figures from foreign countries. There were among them, of course, old friends from previous encounters, but there were many more new faces who had never before been to our country. Let us say it bluntly: They were brought here by the restructuring, by a desire to see with their own eyes and to hear with their own ears what is happening in our country. Still in the grips of old impressions, some of them asked on the move: "Well, what is the 'round table' agenda? How do you intend to emancipate us? What resolutions will be adopted?" Our answers were always the same: "Everything will be the way you yourselves want it." The initial reaction was one of confusion, or rather of mistrust. And so, the "round tables" started their work, which was most fruitful. The auditoriums at the Kosmos Hotel had difficulty accommodating all those who had wanted to attend the discussions. Going by past experience, one thought: "It will be tight until the break, and then they'll all go their own ways." But that did not happen. They all sat firmly and -- and this is the main point -- wanted to speak. The speeches were totally frank and dictated by a common intention -- to reach the greatest possible mutual understanding, to come to the truth, dominated by responsibility for mankind's future. The participants in the discussion achieved much in their quest for ways to a nuclear-free world.

The date of 16 February remained a truly unforgettable part of the forum. Long before the set time, the Great Kremlin Palace was literally bursting at the seams from the pressure of people wanting to attend the main closing session of the forum.

Many important events have taken place beneath the Kremlin Palace roof, but the one that took place on 16 February was sharply different from all others. The auditorium was filled with representatives of the public from 80 countries of the world, from all continents of the planet. That was an extremely rare gathering in terms of political views and passions, convictions, and beliefs, and also in terms of fame. It was attended by people famous all over the world -- scientists, writers, artists, military, businessmen, religious figures.... For one moment, I tried to imagine how difficult it would be for the speaker to interest them all identically in his reflections.

Nevertheless, that was the kind of interest that gripped every one from the very first moments of Mikhail Sergeyevich Gorbachev's speech. There were moments when he was applauded by all, by all those present regardless of nationality, profession, or age. That was an eye-opener! It accurately indicated the main points of human existence, the points where interests converge and where efforts by each and every one are needed. At the same time, it was a strictly scientific analysis by a Marxist who outlined the philosophical doctrines of the present and the coming century, who did not deviate anywhere or in anything from the Leninist principles of assessing the real forces in the international arena.

The session had hardly ended, and I saw the emotional faces of cultural figures expressing concentrated concern. I approached one of them, another, a third.... A new vision of mankind and its future. New thinking.... Every one needs it. The planet's life and the fate of the generations will depend on whether people can master the new understanding of the world situation in the nuclear age.

Yes, new thinking is needed by every one -- from rank-and-file working people to people who today stand high in the state hierarchies. But how much more do we writers need it! Writers were the first to start talking about many of the concerns of today's world. This is no surprise: They are the voice of the people.

New thinking. It gives encouragement for many things, it creates a new mood in the soul, it calls us into the thick of current events.

"Will it work for them?", the world asks with bated breath. "Yes, it will work!", is Soviet people's confident reply.

WRITERS ON 'UNCOVERING' OF BANNED AUTHORS

LD301255 Belgrade TANJUG in English 1150 GMT 30 Mar 87

[Text] Moscow, March 30 (TANJUG) -- Dark clouds are accumulating along the Soviet literary front.

"Foreign correspondents are asking whether this means a civil war indeed and I am answering that it is not. It was before 1941 when progressive forces, putting up their unorganised resistance, were pulling back before an offensive mounted by civilised barbarians," Yuriy Bondarev, a well-known writer, has so evaluated the now state of affairs in Soviet literary life. He said so at the latest session of the secretariat of the Union of Writers of the Russian Federation.

The appearance of new works, publishing of novels and stories banned a long time ago, uncovering of banned writers in the same way such as Gumilev, Solovyev, Mereshkovskiy and Nabokov or of "semibanned" ones such as Anna Akhmatova, Boris Pasternak, Osim Mandelshtam, Varlaam Shalamov and many others have brought about reactions on the "other side." The generation of older writers has protested in public. They consider that the Soviet literary ship is going down.

The president of the management [as received] of Russian writers, Sergey Mikhalov, considers that new "criticisms are often coming close to the frontier when the press comes out with insults against those people who have done much for the Soviet power."

Dementyev, the management secretary, has swooped down on critics. He considers that they are forgetting greats in the Russian literature and Soviet classics.

M. Shundik, a writer not much known, refers to even the 20th Congress of the CPSU.

A. Keshokov, a writer, considers that today (?not much) courage is needed to come up with things passed over in silence for decades, but thinks that no "mess" should be stirred up about works that used to be banned. This refers to "Dr Zhivago," a novel by Boris Pasternak, which should come out in the "NOVYY MIR" periodical early next year.

Keshokov is against this. The periodicals should not take sides, he says, no dust should be raised and this novel should better be published as a book.

Some critics are behaving like hooligans, Petr Proskurov says. He singles out the "MOSCOW NEWS," a newspaper, and "OGONEK," a periodical, and addresses many heavy accusations at them. This writer considers that the "state of affairs in literature is serious," and adduces as an argument of its kind that the word "Komunist" is being avoided in many new works. "Is that a banned word", Proskurov wonders.

M. Alekseyev, an old writer, finds out that "somebody would like today to knock down all spiritual values into a pit."

F. Chuyev wonders whether "we have forgotten about the party spirit and nationality in literature." In a polemical way, he comments on the writing done in "THE YOUNG MOSCOW COMMUNIST," a newspaper, which highly praises Akhmatova, Pasternak and Mandelshtam.

His colleague, Zymin, considers that "we are liiving through a danger-fraught situation" in the 70th year since the October Revolution.

J. Issayev finds out that socialism has "somewhat devalued" as a word and that this is being particularly noticed among the young generations.

Anyhow, writer Yuriy Bondarev has most integrally criticised new trends. After a session of the management of the Union of Writers, he emphasized in an interview with the SOVETSKAYA ROSSIYA, a newspaper:

"Some of criticisms under the flag of democracy have completely renounced constructive [word indistinct]. Such critics have made their criticisms into a black-colour fashion. This is no purging from sin but spiritual besmirching one's name."

Bondarev also sees some wider dimensions in all of that. It would be mistaken and stupid to look "Westwards," and wait from them to understand or support reforms in the national economy, social life or in arts, he says.

"When too nervously paying attention to what is being spoken about in the West, we are humiliating ourselves and losing our dignity and self-esteem in so doing," he considers.

Bondarev, who had published and excellent book at the time, "Hot Snow," on the Stalingrad battle, is again recalling now of that city.

"If our pulling back goes on and the time of Stalingrad does not come up again, all will end in a failure of national values and everything that represents the spiritual pride of our people will be pushed over into an abyss," Bondarev says in conclusion.

This is a use of words which undoubtedly forbodes a storm and a genuine literary war, and whether only a literary one is the question.

VORONIN-CHAIRED PANEL PONDERS CONSTRUCTION COSTS

PM021459 Moscow SOTSIALISTICHESKAYA INDUSTRIYA in Russian 31 Mar 87 p 1

[V. Kremer report: "How Much It Costs To Build a House. Belorussian SSR Construction Ministry Sets an Example in Economical Use of Material Resources"]

[Excerpt] For more than 10 years now Belorussian construction workers have been working under conditions of self-capitalization. Their own income covers in full all expenditure on maintaining and developing the production base and the social sphere. Self-sufficiency [samoobespecheniye] made it necessary to revise the traditional approach to organizing the construction process and to overcome the many shortcomings inherent in it. The chief efforts of the sector's administrations, trusts, and industrial enterprises are aimed at obtaining finished construction output, shortening project commissioning times, and reducing the prime cost of construction and installation work as much as possible -- above all, by saving resources.

A session of the Interdepartmental Commission on Saving and Making Rational Use of Material Resources, held in Moscow, was devoted to studying experience of thrifty management in the Belorussian SSR Construction Ministry. Leaders of contruction ministries, the USSR Gosplan, Gossnab, Gosstroy, and Bank for Financing Capital Investments, and union republic Councils of Ministers participated in it. The session was chaired by L.A. Voronin, chairman of the Interdepartmental Commission and deputy chairman of the USSR Council of Ministers. [passage omitted]

NIKONOV ADDRESSES FISH INDUSTRY AKTIV MEETING

PM021639 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 29 Mar 87 Morning Edition p 2

[TASS report: "Make More Efficient Use of the Sea's Resources"]

[Text] Murmansk, 28 Mar -- The course of restructuring the work of the country's fishing industry in the light of the CPSU Central Committee January (1987) Plenum's decisions was examined at a meeting of the USSR Ministry of the Fish Industry's party-economic aktiv today. Taking part in it were secretaries of union republic communist party central committees and of a number of party obkoms and gorkoms, chiefs of production and science-and-production associations, scientists, and production pacemakers.

The meeting was addressed by V.P. Nikonov, secretary of the CPSU Central Committee.

It was noted that the restructuring of work in this most important sector of the national economy is proceeding slowly and that the achievements of scientific and technical progress are being introduced sluggishly, and that this is preventing an increase in the catch and the production of output and the improvement of output quality. The erroneous practice persists of producing what is easy to produce rather than what the population needs.

The following facts were cited. In the first 2 and 1/2 months of this year alone the collectives of the Northern Basin are responsible for a shortfall of 42,000 metric tons of fish and marine products, 14,000 metric tons of food products, and 1 million items of canned goods. [paragraph continues]

Labor productivity is considerably below the plan target. There are shortcomings in other fish industry basins, too.

The sector is making extremely poor use of fixed production capital, which has doubled in the past 10 years. Ships have been allowed to stand idle for long periods above the norm, which has resulted in the loss of 1 million metric tons of fish according to the most modest estimates. There have been many shortcomings in the scientific support provided for the sector's personnel. Figures from fishing industry basin scientific research institutes show that stocks of valuable commercial types of fish are not being fully used and that matters are even worse with the use of seaweed and other marine products.

There are grave shortcomings in the activity of the processing industry. Almost one-third of the procurable fish is supplied to trade in unprocessed form. Gross indicators still predominate in the evaluation of the work of sector personnel. In the pursuit of high tonnages there are frequent instances indicating that the amount of fish being processed on board ship is declining. This is outright wastefulness. Tons of fish are indeed being produced -- but thousands of tons of valuable waste products are thrown overboard from the kitchens in the garbage. Thus a vast amount of protein-rich feed is irretrievably lost. It should be borne in mind that extra hundreds of thousands of rubles are spent transporting this intermediate product. Meanwhile, processed fish waste can be used to produce scarce protein-rich feed additives.

Questions relating to the comprehensive processing of fish raw materials, the introduction of waste-free technologies, and the improved quality and broader range of fish produce should be constantly monitored by party, soviet, and economic organs.

Unjustifiably little attention is being paid to developing fish farming in reservoirs within the country. Measures to increase their productivity, as outlined by the USSR Ministry of the Fish Industry, are being implemented too slowly and on extremely small scales. The requisite order has still not been established on fish farms. The capacities of such farms are being poorly used by fish industry ministries in the RSFSR and Kazakhstan and the fish industry administrations in Kirghizia and Turkmenia. The country has quite a few warm-water reservoirs near TETS, GRES, and AES power stations but only an insignificant proportion of them is being used for fish cultivation.

The sector's scientific and technical potential is being poorly utilized. That is demonstrated by the following fact, for example. The All-Union Scientific Research Institute of Sea Fisheries and Oceanography -- the sector's main institute -- achieved a return of less than 10 kopeks per ruble of expenditure in the last 5-year plan. Recently the institute has not carried out a single piece of fundamental research into the problems of improving the quality of fishing equipment and techniques.

For a long time now the fish industry has failed to fulfill the plan for the construction or modernization of refrigeration facilities, processing and ship-repair enterprises, and the development of port facilities. Housing problems are being resolved extremely slowly. The approach to the introduction of the new management system in the sector has been largely formal, and the introduction of financial autonomy and team forms of labor oganization has been lax. The own-resources method of building housing and other social facilities is hardly applied at all. All this gives rise to cadre turnover and the frequent replacement of specialists.

The participants in the meeting comprehensively analyzed the shortcomings and omissions in the sector's work and indicated internal reserves for acceleration. The measures formulated after collective consideration will make it possible to considerably enhance the fish industry's role and significance in implementing the Food Program.

UNDELIVERED COAL PILING UP AT DONETSK MINES

LD060846 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 0400 GMT 6 Apr 87

[Text] [Announcer] An urgent call. At the latest news microphone is our Donetsk correspondent Gennadiy Kondaurov.

[Kondaurov] There has now accumulated 6.6 million tonnes of undelivered coal at the mines. This is the annual extraction volume of six average mines. As a result of the unsatisfactory work of railway transportation the Donbass miners have not fulfilled their quarterly plan for sales of fuel to consumers. At 80 mines, there is already absolutely no place to store the extracted coal. The largest mines at Donbass are forced to stand idle for long periods: Stakhanov, Krasnolimanskaya, and many others. Here, the coal is delivered directly by technical facilities to the wagons, but there are no wagons.

There is a very serious situation at the Oktyabrskaya mine, which is in Donetsk. I visited this mine and saw enormous mountains of coal. They are already smoking; spontaneous combustion has begun. The coal is smoking at another 25 mines. Because of this a large quantity of fuel is lost. Losses amount to hundreds of thousands of rubles. The period of snowstorms and snowdrifts has long passed, but they are quite unable to get into a normal working rhythm on the Donetsk railway. Three times, with the participation of senior officials of the Ministry of Railways, measures were taken to speed up the dispatch of the coal, but they just remained on paper; and the mountains of coal at the mines continue to grow. There has, perhaps, never been such a serious situation concerning the dispatch of coal from Donbass as there is now. There have been many promises to put the matter right, but there has to be discipline, too, in carrying out one's own decisions, from the station of dispatch up to the management of the railway and the ministry.

[Announcer] Before putting this material out on the air, we rang the Ministry of Railways, and asked the duty operator to warn the leadership of the ministry of the time of the broadcast. We expect that the Ministry of Railways will finally carry out their own decisions and put things in order. We will inform you of the measures undertaken.

ECONOMIC DATA DISTORTION DEPLORED

For the text of the article by Vasiliy Selyunin and Grigoriy Khanin published in NOVYY MIR No 2 for February 1987 entitled "Cunning Figures" see JPRS UNE-87-030, 7 April 1987, USSR REPORT: NATIONAL ECONOMY pages 1-30.

UZBEK AGRO-INDUSTRIAL PROGRESS REVIEWED

NC030746 Tashkent Domestic Service in Uzbek 0215 GMT 26 Mar 87

[Text] The Uzbek Communist Party Central Committee Bureau held its regular meeting on 25 March The convocation approved measures adopted by the Uzbek Communist Party Central Committee concerning preparations for marking the 70th anniversary of the Great October Socialist Revolution. The bureau also called on oblast, city, and rayon party committees, primary party organizations, soviet organs, ministries and administrations, trade union and komsomol organizations, other communal establishments, and creative unions to implement measures required for marking the anniversary.

Using the political activity and industrious spirit created by the CPSU Central Committee's appeal to the people, the strength and efforts of all workers should be directed toward realizing the decisions adopted by the 27th CPSU Congress and the tasks stipulated in the 12th 5-Year Plan period, beginning with the mobilization of the workers to fulfill the 1987 state plan for Uzbek SSR's economic and social development.

The bureau discussed the work of the Fergana Oblast's Uzbekistanskiy Rayon Agro-Industrial Union to implement new methods in the economic field, as demanded by the 27th CPSU Congress. It noted that the rayon's agro-industrial union had conducted certain efforts to upgrade productivity in the agricultural domain. Compared with 1985, the [word indistinct] agricultural production in 1986 increased by 7.2 percent, and the price of grain dropped by 6 percent. Output of cotton and other crops increased. The volume of livestock breeding products also increased, and plans concerning the marketing of agricultural products during the 1st year of the 5-year plan period were overfulfilled.

However, the bureau established that needed changes had not been made in the methods and forms the agro-industrial union applies to its work in guiding agro-industrial production. The leaders and experts of the agro-industrial union are slow in reorganizing (?work) in accordance with present demands. They have failed to acquaint themselves properly with the norms of economic mechanisms in the agro-industrial complex. [words indistinct] this has adversely affected utilizing plans for production, improving the productivity of existing resources, and providing material assistance to rural workers.

The bureau noted that the work of the rayon agro-industrial union was not geared to remove the (?negative aspects) of the [word indistinct] and follow the direction of increasing production by mechanizing manual labor. The agro-industrial union lacks a program for social reconstruction in rural regions or for providing employment for people who wish to work. The pace of the work carried out for constructing [words indistinct] dwellings and projects economically is slow.

The decision adopted by the bureau noted that the level of the work carried out by the management of the rayon agro-industrial union to apply new methods in the economic field did not comply with the demands of the 27th CPSU Congress and subsequent plenums held by the CPSU Central Committee. The decision also noted that the [words indistinct].

All leading officials and experts must acquaint themselves properly with the documents drawn up by the party and the government on matters concerning economic mechanisms in the agro-industrial complex. The collectives, brigades, and firms which [words indistinct], should be established in each and every economic organization. [Words indistinct] as a source of information, the bureau agreed to receive a report on the measures taken in the rayon to realize the plans drawn up for the first 2 years of the 5-year plan period for increasing production of cotton, grain, fruits, and vegetables, including the volume of livestock breeding products, by the 70th anniversary of the Great October Revolution.

The bureau recommended that the Uzbek SSR State Committee for the Agro-Industrial Complex cooperate with the Fergana Oblast Party Committee in helping the Uzbekistanskiy Rayon agro-industrial union identify and remove obstacles to its guidance to the work carried out to reorganize agricultural production. The bureau also decided that a working group whould be set up, including officials of the State Committee for the Agro-Industrial Complex, the State Committee for Labor, and the Central Asia Section of the USSR Council of Trade Unions, to study using employment resources for people who wish to work in rural areas, to use irrigated lands for production year round, and to increase production and workers' wages.

The bureau also discussed the situation of the party and a number of other matters related to the republic's economic and social development and adopted relevant decisions.

REPORT ON AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENTS FOR 2-3 APR

LD040332 [Editorial report] The following is a compilation of reports on agricultural developments in the USSR carried by Moscow Domestic Service in Russian, unless otherwise indicated, on 2-3 April. GMT times of broadcasts are given in parentheses at the end of each item.

2 Apr

Uzbekistan: Up to this morning, a quarter of a million hectares have been sown in spring crop seeds. Conditions are being complicated by frequent heavy rainfalls which prevent machine operators from working at full capacity. Far less corn and grasses have been sown compared with last year. Cotton sowing is likewise being hampered: only three oblasts have begun selective sowing but even so work had to be stopped because of rainfalls. (0001)

In south Kuban many farms have already ended sowing of perennial grasses while in the north the fields are still bound by snow. Land is thawing slowly, the nights are cold. Snow reserves in the kray's hills are 1.5 to 3 times higher than usual, hence spring floods are expected to be high. (0104)

Sowing has started in east Georgia today. (1300)

Despite the caprice of weather, spring field work is unfolding on the fields of Kuban, To date, the spring sowing in the kray has been carried out on more than 150,000 hectares. (1300)

3 Apr

North Caucasus. One-third of all plowland is this year being allocated to corn by Kabarda-Balkar's crop growers; on half of the sown acreage the corn will be cultivated for grain. In the autonomous republic as a whole the corn yield is higher than in other regions of the RSFSR. This year Kabarda-Balkar's corn growers will make a wide use of industrial technology. A considerable amount of assistance in the implementation of the republican corn program is to be given to the crop growers by the scientists of the All-Russian Crop Scientific Research Institute which has just been set up based on the Kabarda-Balkar experimental station. (0100)

The Altay Scientific Research Institute of Crop Farming and Plant Breeding is part of the (Nivaaltay) Scientific Production Association. The collective has been markedly renewed through the young people that have been taken on. In Altay Kray there now is a very acute problem with feed. Work is being done on such important crops like seed corn for Altay Kray, rape, and sweetclover in order to help solve the problem of procuring balanced feed for animal husbandry. At present an intensive soft spring wheat variety of the Altayskaya-81 type is being zoned. In production conditions over large areas its yield was 35 quintals per hectare. Under intensive technology a yield of over 60 quintals per hectare was obtained. The variety is characterized by a very high quality of grain. Even in those areas where previously no strong wheat was procured, very good results were obtained. Many farms have marketed grain with a gluten content over 35 percent which corresponds precisely to a high grade strong wheat. (0100)

Cotton-growing has begun in Turkmenia. This year no less than 1,270,000 metric tons of raw cotton is expected to be picked in the republic, 360,000 metric tons of it valuable fine-fiber varieties. (1200)

Sowing work has started in Stavropol Kray. Older inhabitants don't recall the sowing of early spring crops taking place so late. (2000)

'KVANT' DOCKING HALTED; NEWS CONFERENCE SCHEDULED

LD051711 Moscow Television Service in Russian 1430 GMT 5 Apr 87

[From the "Vremya" newscast; video report by S. Slipchenko -- identified from screen caption]

[Text] As we have already reported it was expected that the docking of the "Kvant" astrophysical module with the "Mir" manned complex would place today in accordance with the program.

[Slipchenko] The "Kvant" astrophysical module is in the 6th day of its flight. Throughout the flight the module has been catching up with "Mir" and early this morning Yuriy Romanenko and Aleksandr Laveykin saw the "Kvant" in the porthole. The rendezvous was taking place under controlled final approach conditions. The flight was proceeding normally. When the "Kvant" and "Mir" were separated by 200 meters -- during the final section -- the rendezvous was suspended because of faults in the control system of the "Kvant."

Every space flight is a test mission. Changes are made to the system design and the "Kvant" is an altogether new stage in the process of creating complicated complexes in orbit. Malfunction situations -- as the specialists call them -- are therefore possible.

An assessment of the state of the "Kvant" is now being conducted, taking everything into consideration -- the quantity of fuel on board, the extent of its movement away from "Mir"; ballistics experts are defining its orbit more precisely and telemetric information is being analyzed. Decisions on further work with the module will only be taken on the results of this analysis. All systems of the "Mir" station are working normally. Cosmonauts Yuriy Romanenko and Aleksander Laveykin are resting.

Tomorrow their working day will differ from the normal only in that news conference will take place in the evening, organized by Glavkosmos and the flight control center; taking part in it will be members of future international crews. [video shows scene inside mission control center; chart on wall illustrating rendezvous maneuvers; tracks of spacecraft plotted on world map]

DOLGIKH ATTENDS MEETING ON PROSPECTING WORK

PM031107 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 1 Apr 87 First Edition p 3

[TASS report: "The Conference Discussed"]

[Text] Questions of radically improving the standard of the exploration and utilization of mineral resouces were discussed at a conference of the party-economic aktiv of the "Geos" intersectorial scientific and technical complex held in Moscow 31 March. The intersectorial scientific and technical complex has been given the task of creating a geosystem for the automatic gathering and processing of geological, geophysical, and geochemical data geared to optimizing mineral prospecting and extraction work.

The conference participants emphasized the need for the priority development of progressive geophysical and geochemical methods of exploration and the great importance of the generalization of intersectorial information and its prompt utilization with a view to enhancing the efficiency of the geological prospecting process and accelerating it. Attention was drawn to the sluggishness and insufficient initiative of individual ministries, enterprises, and scientific establishments in setting up intersectorial scientific and technical complexes and resolving specific tasks. Measures to strengthen the links between science and production and to focus joint efforts on the development of highly efficient equipment and technology in the light of the decisions of the CPSU Central Committee January (1987) Plenum were outlined.

The conference was addressed by V.I. Dolgikh, candidate member of the Politburo and secretary of the CPSU Central Committee.

The aktiv was attended by G.G. Vedernikov, deputy chairman of the USSR Council of Ministers, heads of ministries and departments, and senior staff of the USSR Academy of Sciences and the State Committee for Science and Technology.

SAKHALIN LOCAL TV BEGINS SATELLITE RELAY

PM031203 Moscow SOVETSKAYA ROSSIYA in Russian 31 Mar 87 First Edition p 1

[S. Saktaganov report: "Television Bridge for Islands"]

[Text] Yuzhno-Sakhalinsk -- Not a television set but... a satellite received the signal from an "Orbita" station. For the first time in our country, experimental transmission of broadcasts by the local television and radio committee was conducted on Sakhalin. As of 1 April such programs will be seen three times a week in many rayons of the island oblast.

Generally speaking no one in the islands is surprised to see television. Such are the peculiarities of communications here that, except for the inhabitants of southern Sakhalin and the Kuriles, everyone else has found it far more difficult to receive broadcasts from their own oblast than news of events in Africa or Antartica. Innovators from the radio and television center have helped to rectify the situation. P.V. Akhmanayev, deputy chief of the Oblast Communications Administration, has reported that a creative group of specialists organized a separate channel to supply signals to the "Orbita" station. It made the necessary changes to the equipment. Under the new management conditions these additional services also promise considerable benefits for the communications workers themselves.

VII.	WESTERN EUROPE DAILY REPORT	Contents unchanged
VIII.	SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA DAILY REPORT	Renamed; formerly SOUTH ASIA DAILY REPORT; contents include: International Affairs Inter-African Affairs Central Africa Burundi Cameroon Central African Republic Congo Equatorial Guinea Gabon Rwanda Sao Tome & Principe Zaire East Africa Djibouti Ethiopia Kenya Somalia Tanzania Uganda Indian Ocean Comoros Madagascar Mauritius Seychelles Southern Africa Angola Botswana Lesotho Malawi Mozambique Namibia Republic of South Africa Reunion Swaziland Zambia Zimbabwe Western Africa Benin Burkina Faso Cape Verde Islands The Gambia Ghana Guinea Guinea-Bissau Ivory Coast Liberia Mali Niger Nigeria Senegal Sierra Leone Togo

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